

SACRED SPACE

A PUBLICATION OF SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Spring/Summer 2019



The Smalls

Joe & Peggy Rowland

Cynthia & Hal

Winkles

Peter &

r. Pendergast

Thom

Haglers

Rob & Heidi



From the Interim Pastor

"HALLELUJAH!"

In the text from Luke for Palm Sunday, the Pharisees tell Jesus to put a quash on all the “hallelujahs” people are shouting upon his arrival into Jerusalem. Even though he looks more like a pauper than a prince, the word is that someone has come to lead the Jews out of their miserable existence under Roman rule. Predictably, the people are excited and believe their future is bright. The Jewish leaders, however, feel threatened; some upstart carpenter is telling everyone he has come to save the world. And so the Pharisees, following the letter of the law, tell Jesus to stifle his fan club.

Jesus replies, I’m happy to try, but even if I silence them, the stones will shout out. In other words, the reality of my saving grace, the knowledge of who I am and the promise of life everlasting is so completely, outrageously impossible to muffle that even the trees will clap their hands, even the hills will dance, even the rocks will shout “Hallelujah!” at the top of their calcified lungs.

Truth like that can only be described in one word... Easter. With the most sacred of all Christian Sundays upon us, I wonder if we could learn from those stones. How difficult is it to keep from shouting the good news of the gospel? How unabashedly do we proclaim the life-saving, abundant, radical message of Christ’s love for all? Do we say, “Hallelujah!” enough, or not at all for fear of ridicule?

Presbyterians aren’t notorious for evangelism, but that doesn’t excuse us from trying. If ever there were a time for “Hallelujah!” to roll off our lips, it is during this season of Easter. However, “Hallelujah!” isn’t just spoken. “Hallelujah!” looks like helping our invalid neighbor. It looks like building a Habitat house. “Hallelujah!” looks a lot like teaching our children and visiting the sick and chaperoning our youth. It looks like a gentle touch or a listening ear to those in our midst whose supply of faith and hope has dwindled dry. “Hallelujah” doesn’t work in a vacuum; it can only be experienced in community...right where you are.

The late Barry Hannah, in his Pocket Canon introduction to Mark, paraphrases Jesus speaking in a way I think we all need to hear about now:

*Do not think so much.
Surrender. Believe. Unprepared, move out to the world and testify.
The words will come. Serve.
From now on, service is kingly.
There are no more kings. Serve. Help. Love. Others as thyself.
This is impossible but do it.
You have seen enough. You have seen it all,
The miracles, the walk on water, Father speaking from a bright cloud.
You were not there but the centurion was,
Through the last hour.
The women, faithful, down the hill, waiting and watching.
“Truly this was the Son of God,” told the centurion
To all near the cross. Not you craven.
The temple did not fall, but its veil was rent
Top to bottom. Enough. You do not need the whole catastrophe,
For it has already taken place.
God is not in the temple anymore.
You cowards, keep running, but now you are mine,
My brothers and sisters.
Tell them. Help. Love. Service.
My good cowards, weaklings, doubters,
How I love you,
Whom I serve and will see in Galilee.
Hallelujah! He is risen, and even the stones will shout.*

Easter Blessings,

Rev. John M. Semmes



4



8



12



14

FEATURES

- 4 **ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICE:** Rev. E. Bradley Kibler
- 6 **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Faith & Education
- 8 **2019 CONFIRMATION:** LaAmistad/Confirmand Mix N' Mingle
- 9 **STEWARDSHIP:** Our Dollars at Work
- 12 **CARE MINISTERS PROGRAM:** People to People Care
- 14 **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Meet Grant Wright
- 15 **NEWS & EVENTS:** PNC Updates, Staff Profiles, and MORE!



ON THE COVER

Pictured on the cover are members of all ages actively participating in Shallowford's 2018 #WeAreShallowford stewardship campaign. Every Sunday in October, members faithfully submitted pledges to support life-changing worship, congregational care, and opportunities to learn and grow in faith.



Shallowford Calls Associate Pastor **THE REVEREND E. BRADLEY KIBLER**

In early March, Shallowford hosted the ordination and installation of E. Bradley Kibler as Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Shallowford members and guests representing the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Columbia Theology Seminary, First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, and the Kibler family attended the inspiring service.

“When I woke up on March 3, I knew that it was going to be the most important day of my life,” said Bradley. “But I was unprepared for the overwhelming amount of love from ‘my people’ and the never-ending stream of tears rolling down my face. Thanks be to God!”

Rev. Catherine E. Foster, Shallowford’s Associate Pastor of Mission & Discipleship, presided and welcomed all in the joyful presence of God. Each person participating in the service has a special tie to Bradley. Her brother, **Elder Henley Kibler**, gave the Call to Worship. **Rev. Dr. George Wirth**, who baptized Bradley as an infant at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, delivered the Reaffirmation of Baptism Covenant, and her own youth minister, **Rev. Allison Per-Lee**, led the Call to Confession.

SPC Elder Kathryn Kent read the scripture and Shallowford’s Chapel Choir, under the direction of **Emily Floyd**, sang an inspiring anthem. **Ryan Bonfiglio**, Bradley’s Hebrew

professor from Columbia Theological Seminary, preached the sermon. Current Youth **Elder Christopher Rosselot** and **Carolyn Carl**, the co-chair of her APNC, charged the congregation in the installation portion of the service. Following the Laying on of Hands and the Declaration of Ordination and Installation, **Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams**, a mentor to Bradley, delivered the Charge to the Pastor and the Charge to the Congregation. Also present was **Rev. Rebekah LeMon**, the moderator of Bradley’s commission and a close colleague and inspiration in ministry.

Following the service, attendees congratulated the Reverend E. Bradley Kibler at a reception in the Great Hall where they enjoyed mini shrimp cocktail hors d’oeuvres, Bradley’s personal favorite.

Francesca Mariano, SPC youth, presented Bradley with a bouquet of cards from the parents and youth she works with weekly. The reception concluded with a surprise congratulatory video created and produced by Rebecca Goode and Chris Buechner.

“It’s been amazing to watch God work in Bradley’s life to call her to Shallowford and then call her to ministry through her work here,” said Rev. Catherine Foster. “She will be a pastoral, inspiring, collaborative, and strategic minister.”

Bradley came to Shallowford in August 2015 as SPC's Seminary Youth Intern, then served as the interim Youth Director. After a nation-wide search for an Associate Pastor of Youth & Program Ministries, SPC hired Bradley in a Director role in June 2016 with a commitment to call and ordain her when she completed the requirements.

"Bradley excelled in her ministry while diligently working toward ordination," said SPC Elder Terry O'Toole. "The service included her installation as the SPC Associate Pastor for Youth & Program Ministries."

Since joining the Shallowford staff, Bradley has restructured the youth small group program creating a safe space to build new relationships among youth and small group leaders. She also planned Shallowford's first international youth mission trip to help with hurricane disaster relief in Puerto Rico. In addition to planning fun, engaging weekly activities, she connects regularly with each SPC youth. She accompanies them on summer trips, including Chapel Choir Tour and Montreat.

When not focused on youth planning, Bradley manages the programs aspect of her position.

These include the planning and implementation of Shallowford's All Church Retreat, as well as intergenerational events throughout the year.

"Bradley is one of the hardest working people I know," said Rev. Foster. "She cares deeply for our youth, their faith development, their lives, and their dreams. She brings energy, creativity, and dedication to every project she undertakes, including the development of Shallowford's program ministry."



SERVICE OF ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

- *Litany of Gifts*
- *Statement on Ordination*
- *Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant*
- *Affirmation of Faith*
- *Constitutional Questions*
- *Laying on of Hands and Prayer for Ordination and Installation*
- *Declaration of Ordination and Installation*
- *Charge to the Pastor*
- *Charge to the Congregation*

OPPORTUNITIES DEDICATED TO FAITH & EDUCATION



Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

SPW CIRCLES

This year, Shallowford Presbyterian Women (SPW) nurtured their faith with help from Amy Poling Sutherlun's book, *God's Promise: I am with You*. Through monthly group discussion, our six diverse SPW Circles explored how God's promise speaks to our own circumstances. If you are a faith-seeker, eager to build relationships and foster spiritual exploration and growth, we invite you to join us!

1. Wonder Women - A group of ladies in their 20's through 40's that enjoy the community found with each other.

- **When:** 3rd Saturday, 10:00 am
- **Where:** Library & Heritage Hall
- **Leaders:** Marlo McDonald & Elizabeth Harrell

2. Sharing Our Scriptures (S.O.S.) - Women of all ages who seek support for daily living and guidance.

- **When:** 1st Wednesday, 9:30 am
- **Where:** Members' Homes
- **Leader:** Vaughn Dunnigan

3. Mosaic - Brings women of all ages and backgrounds together for Bible study and fellowship.

- **When:** 2nd Monday, 7:00 pm
- **Where:** Conference Room B or Members' Homes
- **Leaders:** Hannah Weir or Barbara Reeves

4. Fourth Tuesday - In-depth Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. Pack a sandwich and join the group.

- **When:** 4th Tuesday, 10:00 am
- **Where:** Members' Homes & Youth Center
- **Leader:** Betty Marie Stewart

5. Mothers & Others - Brings women of all ages and backgrounds together for Bible study and fellowship.

- **When:** 3rd Tuesday, 10:00 am
- **Where:** Members' Homes
- **Leaders:** Jan Ziegler & Cheryl Heenan

6. SOS Sisters - The newest group to focus on Bible study, fellowship, and mission opportunities.

- **When:** 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
- **Where:** Shallowford Presbyterian Church
- **Leader:** Teresa Morris



SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30-10:30 AM

Christian Education Hour at Shallowford is a great time to begin or continue your journey in faith. We are proud to offer classes for our littlest ones (three-year-olds) to our most seasoned faith seekers. All Sunday School classes offer a different study focus and format designed to fit the many different needs of our members. Childcare is available every Sunday morning for children two and under in the nursery adjacent to the Sanctuary where they are cared for by a team of professional caregivers.

ADULTS



Age Range: Parents of Middle & High Schoolers
Location: Room 307
Class Size: 15



Age Range: Adults of All Ages
Location: Library
Class Size: 20



Age Range: Parents with Young Children
Location: Room 304
Class Size: 12



Age Range: Adults of All Ages
Location: Room 309
Class Size: 25



Age Range: Adults in their 30s & 40s
Location: Room 308
Class Size: 15



Age Range: Adults of All Ages (mostly seniors)
Location: Room 310
Class Size: 45



Age Range: Mostly Seniors
Location: Conference Room B
Class Size: 10



Age Range: Women of All Ages
Location: Burney Overton Room
Class Size: 10



Discovering Shallowford classes are held three times a year and provide an opportunity for prospective members to learn about Shallowford's mission and vision, Christian faith in the 21st Century, and how prospective members might find a home in the life and ministry of the Shallowford congregation.

YOUTH



Our 6th-12th graders gather each week to dig a little deeper into Scripture. We offer a Jr. High class for grades 6-8 and a Sr. High class for grades 9-12. Together our volunteer teachers help students discover meaning and identity in the biblical narrative and in their lives. In the spring, Shallowford offers Confirmation Classes for 8th graders ready to explore their faith.

CHILDREN



Thanks to an army of volunteer teachers Shallowford is able to teach our children the word of The Lord. Through music, crafts, Bible stories, and activities from *Frolic* curriculum, three-year-olds through Pre-K students explore their faith. Elementary aged children reenact Bible stories, learn from *Spark Active Faith* curriculum, and honor their Bible skills through fun games.



WRITING THEIR OWN STORY

by Bradley Kibler

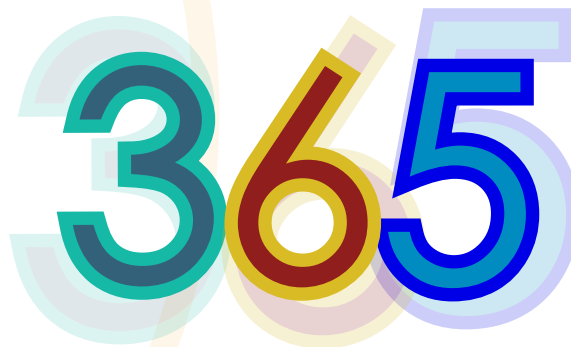
Three years ago, the Shallowford Confirmation Class began partnering with LaAmistad in a unique and meaningful way through a pen pal program. Every Sunday morning before the planned lesson of the day, the Confirmation students take time to write letters to their assigned pen pal in the LaAmistad tutoring program. Using our Shallowford Mailbox, the letters are then “mailed” to the third floor so that the elementary students can respond during their tutoring time each week.

Over the course of several weeks, Confirmation and LaAmistad students are able to build connections through common interests, varied experiences and comical banter. Their letters center around hot topics from “snow days” and video games to sibling rivalries and favorite school subjects. Their bond is built on basic table topics, but over time they become invested in the life of their pen pals. The LaAmistad students are often caught exclaiming, “Did my pen pal send me a letter?” After ten weeks of writing back and forth to each other, the Confirmation Class invites and hosts all of the LaAmistad students and their families for a community meal, conversation, and games. It is a unique opportunity for our Confirmants to rise up as leaders and host and offer our LaAmistad students a special opportunity to engage in peer leadership. The mutual influence of the pen pal program is clear as the students gather around tables and share face-to-face about topics they’ve been exploring in their letters for weeks.

“When I think about what it means to be church, I am immediately drawn to the image of our very first Confirmation/LaAmistad Mix N’ Mingle. Watching the students of different ages, races and backgrounds laugh and be in community together truly represents my image of the “Body of Christ”.

- Bradley





Dear Shallowford Family & Friends,

Spring! A time of renewal...growth...and gratitude. We watch the foliage of our neighborhoods and city bloom, students move on to their next phases of development as the school year ends and Shallowford turns generosity into worship, education, mission and congregational care. October may seem long ago or far into the future, but it is because of our congregation's giving during Stewardship 2018 that we can be grateful for so much.

Do you remember..."We Are Shallowford!?"

Although Shallowford recognizes a month of Sundays in October as stewardship season, the practice of stewardship is all year long. We pledge during a period of time, but putting those financial resources to work and to the mission that is Shallowford Presbyterian Church happens every day, every week and every month.

Shallowford...we are grateful for the pledges you made and the pledge you fulfill every Sunday. You give volunteer time, personal and professional expertise and money to keep Shallowford operating and changing lives.

In the months ahead, we will continue to share with you how your pledges are making a difference. We also look forward to Stewardship 2019 when the hope is to continue the renewal, growth and gratitude.

Always, gratitude. With so much to be grateful for, why wouldn't everyone pledge?

With blessings and gratitude from your Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs,

Julie Burkhard & Terry O'Toole



365

YOUR DOLLARS AT *WORK*

CARING FOR OUR FACILITY



Each week, hundreds of people step foot onto Shallowford's campus in search of a place to call home. Thanks to your annual giving, and the thoughtful thinking from the Facility Committee and our paid facility employees, Shallowford was able to make necessary enhancements to maintain a safe environment for all.



Over the past two years, under the supervision of Jim McGarrah, Dooley Shabazz, SPC Facilities Manager, coordinated the **installation of four heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units** to simultaneously heat/cool the Education Building. Shallowford School and the church co-funded the cost to install a **new six-foot fence around the back ball field**. To start 2019, fifteen smart thermostats have been installed throughout the building. These thermostats regulate room temperature through an app no matter the location. After receiving recommendations from an



Audio/Visual Specialist the **A/V equipment** for both the Great Hall and Heritage Hall were updated in March of 2019, ensuring a high quality of projection. Soon after, the Facilities team **purchased new Conference Room furniture** including 20 stackable chairs, 14 office chairs, and a table complete with electrical outlets used for laptops and mobile charging. Most recently, **window tinting was added to the Sanctuary windows** to help with glare during Sunday worship, and will cut HVAC costs through out the year.

Jim shared his gratitude to the congregation, "If we didn't have access to the Facilities Fund or funds from the Capital Campaign, we wouldn't have the means to support these projects."

This summer the Facilities Team will oversee **repairs to the main parking lot** with the addition to two **Handicap parking spaces**, as well as roof repairs nears the Great Hall.

WE ARE



HOW ANNUAL GIVING IMPACTS OTHERS

Each year, Shallowford Presbyterian Church joyfully invests thousands of volunteer hours and over \$100,000 in mission. Because of your generosity during Stewardship Shallowford is able to devote twenty percent of the Annual Church Budget, and your individual pledge, to the Mission Forward Fund that directly impacts our local community members in need of assistance. "The Fund" was established through the generosity of the Mission Tithe from the 2014 "Rooted in Faith Forward in Hope" Capital Campaign and the Support & Endowment Committee's "Special Ministries" and "Mission and Benevolence" Funds.

The Fund supports special opportunities for Shallowford Presbyterian Church of joining God's mission. The following grants were made possible thanks to your annual giving.

1.) SHALOM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES* (2016)

- **Project:** Salary of the Pastor
- **Details:** Five year disbursement to enable full-time pastor to establish the ministry.

2.) YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO NEW MEXICO (2017)

- **Project:** Help subsidize trip costs for SPC youth for a week in service
- **Details:** SPC 9th-12th graders mobilized and helped our neighbors on a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico through Experience Mission – a Christian-based organization designed to mobilize volunteers, develop leaders, and empower communities.

3.) NEW AMERICAN PATHWAYS (2017)

- **Project:** Resettlement of a Refugee Family
- **Details:** Through this partnership, the Refugee Resettlement Team and a group of devoted volunteers supported an Afghan family establish their new home within the Clarkston community.

4.) I HEART ATLANTA FOR RESUME CAFE (2018)

- **Project:** Resume writing internship
- **Details:** Through this project, I Heart Atlanta helped individuals transition out of homelessness and into a successful and sustainable work environment. The goal for the future is to create a permanent position at I Heart Atlanta to oversee the program.

5.) SHALLOWFORD FAMILY MISSION TRIP (2018)

- **Project:** Support mission projects at Thornwell Home for Children and Presbyterian Homes of South Carolina
- **Details:** Elementary aged children and their families visited Clifton, South Carolina where they spent time at Presbyterian College. Members also served the local community and learned first-hand the importance of service.

6.) LAGONAVE HAITI PARTNERSHIP, ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL* (2018)

- **Project:** Remove and replace dangerous playground equipment and build a safe new playground for the children at the St. Francis Preschool.
- **Details:** Through the LaGonave Haiti Partnership, Shallowford members visit the island of Anse-À-Galets, LaGonave, Haiti annually to improve education, healthcare, and economic development.

WWW.SHALLOWFORD.ORG/GIVE

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CARE: SHALLOWFORD CARE MINISTERS



HISTORY & EXPANSION OF CARE

Under the guidance of the Rev. Robby L. Carroll, Shallowford's original care program started with ten faithful volunteers. As the congregation grew, a need became apparent for additional volunteers to provide care for our homebound members. Now, in 2019, under the guidance of Rev. Laura H. Jernigan, Shallowford reports a record number of 32 care ministers who serve our church families in a ministry that develops Christian friendship and fellowship with folks we do not see often and with whom we want to keep in touch. The term, "Homebound", includes members who live at home, in retirement communities, and assisted living or nursing care facilities. Our Shallowford Care Ministers have become bridges with pastors and staff to communicate various needs members face such as illnesses, challenges with aging or simply a time for companionship. Care ministry can be: a phone conversation, a home visit, a written note, a vase of flowers, a prayer shawl or a visit to sit and listen to life stories.

All Shallowford Care Ministers meet once a month for administration, training and support.

LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE MINISTRY

Members Bob Smithers, Sara Achuff, and Mary Ellen Pendergrast, along with Sherry Cross, the group's administrator, lead this amazing team of Care Ministers. Bob, Sara and Mary Ellen share what care ministry does for and means to them (p.13).

2019 CARE MINISTERS

FRONT ROW (L TO R): Jerri Russell * CharleAnne Sher * Mary Ellen Pendergrast * Bette Chambliss * Laura Jernigan. **MIDDLE ROW (L TO R):** Cathy Crawford * Janice Moriarity * Cynthia Thompson * Mary Virginia Shores * Jan Ziegler * Sara Achuff. **BACK ROW (L TO R):** Wayne Anderson * Jim Hutchinson * Bob Smithers * Jim Reeves * Bob Vance. **NOT PICTURED:** Lynda Black * Stayce Bushart * Vaughn Dunnigan * Kate Fourmy * MC Graves * Tom Heyse * Brenda Hill * Rachel Mariano * Susan Milton * Charky Neil * Richard Phillips * Shirley Rosselot * Tasha Smallwood * Joe Smith-Purcell * Betty Marie Stewart.

YOUR "CALL" TO CARE FOR OTHERS

MARY ELLEN: "I don't know that I had a call to be a care minister. From as early as I can remember I was a caregiver, caring for my younger sister. I went into nursing because I loved caring for others. Nursing gave me knowledge to care effectively. I signed up for Caring in Action at Shallowford which evolved into the Care Minister Program and now serve on the Congregational Care Committee, helping to communicate with care ministers and conduct training. I guess you could say I was born to be a caregiver."

SARA: "My background as a nurse and as a deacon and Stephen Minister equips me to be a care minister. I feel God's call to do His work in this capacity. It comes naturally to me. During my mother's long struggle with dementia, I witnessed how members of her church reached out to help her and was inspired by their loving care. I would like to assure our homebound members they are not forgotten by this community. They have been faithful servants of God's kingdom for many years, and I honor them to the best of my ability."

BOB: "My call to be a care minister comes from my desire to serve others. Personality tests show my strongest traits are Empathy, Harmony and Restorative. I enjoy being with people and taking an interest in them. I believe people need someone to take an interest in them, to listen to them. C.S. Lewis said people can stand to be denied, but they can't stand to be ignored."

JOYS RECEIVED FROM CARING FOR OTHERS

ME: "Helping to equip others with knowledge and skills to be effective care ministers gives me great satisfaction. Encouraging people to accept help allows others to have the satisfaction of doing a good deed. Helping our care ministers recognize the importance and power in listening increases their effectiveness. Though many whom I have visited over the years have passed on, they are treasured in my memory."

S: "I enjoy personal visits with care recipients and learn how they are navigating this season of their lives. I am encouraged by the courageous ways they cope with challenges, relying on God's help. I meet their family, care givers, friends, and pets. I was privileged to participate in home communion with one of my care receivers, whom I talked to on the phone but had not met. The visit was full of joy, laughter and her gratitude. She was full of God's Spirit. Later, she sent a thank you note and a woven cross. She passed away shortly thereafter. I will never forget her or the way she made me feel loved."

B: "The main joy for me is the friendships I've made and most importantly to see how seemingly small acts of kindness can have a tremendous impact on a life. I spent time with an old gentleman named John Bliss. We talked about his experiences in WWII as an aid to General Patton. He loved to tell his stories, and I loved to listen. I went to his memorial service where his son introduced me as his father's best friend and asked me to give a remembrance of his father. I was stunned but did it and upon leaving gave thanks to God for using me in this way."

WHAT IT MEANS TO CARE FOR OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

ME: "My own faith has grown through this program and my personal life experiences. Working with people reinforces how very precious life is. It is our job to take care of our bodies, to live each day as if it were our last and to treasure the relationships we have in our lives. If I get down, I feel better if I reach out to someone and offer a sympathetic ear or tell them I'm thinking of them and praying for them."

S: "Walking on faith journeys with long time members of Shallowford, I've learned much about reliance on God's promises. Also, I've learned from other care ministers and am so impressed by the faithful, tender care they give to members of our congregation. They are truly God's hands and feet to Shallowford's homebound members."

B: "I have learned in my faith that the greatest gift is the joy of serving others. It takes faith to believe that my needs will be more fulfilled by acts of kindness. The happiness and serenity I receive is much more than when I am trying to please just myself. I feel blessed and grateful to serve the Shallowford community as a care minister."

For more information, or to join the team, contact a group leader!

Mary Ellen Pendergrast
mependergrast@gmail.com

Bob Smithers
smithers1@comcast.net

Sara Achuff
seachuff@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

VBS: BLAST OFF!

MEET GRANT WRIGHT

JUNE 17-21, 2019

HELLO SHALLOWFORD FAMILY!

I am Grant Wright, and I will be directing Shallowford's Vacation Bible School this summer! I've so enjoyed getting to know Shallowford as a loving community of faith.

MORE ABOUT GRANT

I am a second-year MDiv student at Columbia Theological Seminary studying to become a church pastor. Prior to moving to Decatur, I received my BA in Religion at Middlebury College in Vermont. My family lives in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a beautiful valley that serves as the southern gateway to Yellowstone Park.

I have worked for two summer camps with programming for children and youth. One of these was at the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole, where I served with their faith-based day camp for elementary children, "Joy Camp." I worked as a camp counselor, activities specialist, and interim director. I also had the opportunity to serve as a year-long Intern for Children, Youth, and Families.

It is an absolute joy to now be working with SPC's children's ministry. I've had such a warm welcome in this community over the past few months as I've helped with the Wednesday BLAST program and taught a few sessions of the Foundations of Faith adult Sunday School class.

TO MARS AND BEYOND

This summer, we are thrilled to bring you a VBS that promises to be out of this world!

The kids will become voyagers into space, learning about God, our world, and one another. There is a whole universe of fun to explore, including skits, games, music, and activities of all kinds. We'll learn about the adventurers of ancient times while preparing for a future of boundless possibility. Launching from our very own Shallowford Starbase, we'll discover how truly marvelous God's world is, and how each

of our young astronauts is chosen for a unique purpose in God's mission.

This summer's VBS will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., June 17-21, 2019. All kids who have turned three by July 1, 2019 (and are potty trained!) up to our rising 5th graders are invited to join us as participants. The cost for the week is \$40 per child.

For those of you from 5th grade to age 100, you can be involved, too! Any good space mission needs a huge array of officers, support crew, and mission controllers to succeed. Whatever your gifts and availability, we'd love to have your help. See our website to fill out our volunteer form and join the team.

I am looking forward to this summer's Vacation Bible School and traveling with you TO MARS AND BEYOND! If you have questions or you'd like to hear more about our summer program, please contact me at vbs@shallowford.org.



REGISTER! www.shallowford.org

www.shallowford.org

A FIT FOR EVERYONE: SHALLOWFORD SMALL GROUPS



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Once a month, members between the ages of 20-something to early 30s gather for Bible Study to enhance their faith through Christian beliefs. This monthly discussion allows young adults fellowship, Christian Education, and a real sense of community. Within the last six months, the group served meals at Our House, a local shelter for women and children, assisted with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance packing event, and held small group discussion around anxiety at Shallowford's community screening of the film, *Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety*. **To join the group, contact Katie Kilch at kilch.katie@gmail.com.**



SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

One of the best ways to get to know people at Shallowford is through Shallowford Presbyterian Women's small groups, also known as "Circles". Together these women share, study the Bible, and worship together to provide an opportunity to build relationships of mutual concern and support for each other, the church, and the world. On a monthly basis, SPW members gather for fun and educational outings to continue building their bond. **To find a circle that suits you, or to join the next social outing, visiting www.shallowford.org/womens-groups.**



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Formed in 2017, Shallowford's newest men's group, Theology On Tap, welcomes men of all ages to be part of deep discussions focused on faith. The group meets the second Monday of each month in members' homes to spend time connecting through laid-back conversation on faith and real life. Our hope is that after just one gathering you will be hooked. **To attend the next gathering, contact Rebecca Goode at rgoode@shallowford.org.**



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Shallowford's Senior Adult Ministry, also known as the "RoadRunners", meets on the second Tuesday of the month for outings and programs, with special events in December and July. Within the last six months, the group visited the Atlanta BeltLine, a Hindu Temple, the IMAX Theater at Fernbank, hosted the annual Heart to Heart Luncheon in February, and recently visited the Atlanta History Center to see the restored Cyclorama painting. All Shallowford men and women are invited to attend future adventures. **Visit www.shallowford.org/seniors to view a list of upcoming events.**

INVITING ALL PEOPLE

TO A FAITHFUL WAY OF LIFE IN CHRIST & IN COMMUNITY

Day in and day out, Shallowford lives its mission to invite all people to feel God's presence through worship, fellowship, Christian Education, and more. By supporting the needs of our local community members, Shallowford is able to lean into that mission to provide a safe place for outside organizations to call home (see below). Through their specific ministry efforts, Shallowford takes on a new level of diversity and is able to support the needs of the community.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 534

Scouts BSA Troop 534 is a unit chartered to Shallowford Presbyterian Church and is part of the Hightower Trail District in the Atlanta Area Council. Troop 534 is open to boys and girls of any religious background, race, or ethnicity. Associating with children from different backgrounds, participating in service projects, and providing support to sponsoring organization allows the scouts to better understand themselves and their place in the world. The group meets weekly at Shallowford.

WHEN: Monday Evenings, 7-9 pm

WHERE: The Great Hall



ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Association offers a weekly support group for families and friends who are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. This support group provides guidance, solace, and fellowship to caregivers. We invite you to share your experiences and learn tools to help manage this disease.

WHEN: Tuesday, 10-11:30 am

WHERE: SPC, Heritage Hall

NAMI CONNECTION

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI's Peer Support Group is for individuals experiencing a mental health condition. Individuals do not need a formal diagnosis to attend. These sessions take place in an intimate, confidential setting to allow peers to share with each other their positives and negatives. This type of group lets you know that you are not alone and it is not your fault.

WHEN: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

WHERE: SPC, Room 308

ATLANTA MULTIPLE MYELOMA SUPPORT GROUP

Each month this group meets to hear guest speakers in a support group setting or share in member-led discussions. Attendees enjoy drinks and snacks provided by group members and are welcome to join at no cost.

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month,
10:40 am-12:30 pm

WHERE: SPC, Library

SHALLOWFORD FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

SFCC is a place of grace that provides affordable, sliding scale therapeutic and spiritual counsel for both church members and the broader community. The Director of the SFCC, Reverend Robby Carroll, is an ordained minister, and licensed mental health professional.

WHEN: By Appointment (404-216-3882)

WHERE: SPC, Burney Overton Room

Areas of special focus for individual therapy include:

Grief Support | Alcohol & Drug Family Support | Family Therapy | Management of Depression & Anxiety | Relationships | Personal Growth | Alzheimer's Support

To learn more, visit www.shallowford.org/family-counseling.



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

Updates from the PNC

Presbyterians are known for doing things “decently and in order.” So, there is a process for calling a pastor to a church. The Presbytery has paired Shallowford with Rev. Mary Jane Cornell, a full-time pastor for many years and an interim pastor to act as a resource for the search. She explained the process and the other information available to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC.)

After being elected by the congregation, the eight members of the PNC met with staff and members of the congregation to hear comments about their job and our church. Members of the PNC include John Bogle and Jay Turney – cochairs, Diane Prucino, Thurston Cooke, Katie Kilch, Jenni Mathis, Bob Smithers, and Laura Bishop. A listening session open to all members was held. The CAT survey asked members for even more information, then the results from the survey were presented to the congregation during a churchwide lunch. Using the input from the survey, the PNC wrote the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which was approved by the Session and posted on the PC(USA) website for potential candidates to apply. This document describes the church as well as the qualifications that SPC seeks in a candidate.

The MIF is available online at www.shallowford.org.

The PNC continues to meet weekly to receive, read and evaluate PIFs in a spirit of openness to God's spiritual leading. Referrals, PIFs, and responses are organized in a spreadsheet and filed so that members of the committee can access the information easily. The PNC welcomes comments and suggestions. You will not hear the result of the referral since that is confidential, but every referral is checked and discussed in great detail.

At this time, the committee continues to receive suggestions of potential candidates. In addition, the field of referred, prospective pastors is being narrowed by listening to sermons online as the process of reference checking and phone or video-conferencing begins. But first, interview questions will be created to help determine if the candidate is a fit for Shallowford. Committee members network with people around the country to find a person who is the one person God is calling to lead Shallowford in the coming years.

What's next for the PNC?

- Continually pray for guidance
- Network to identify candidates
- Listen to sermons
- Create and interview a short list of candidates
- Examinations & approvals of finalist by the Presbytery
- Select one nominee to present to Shallowford
- Celebrate that God has called the next pastor for Shallowford Presbyterian

What can the members of Shallowford Presbyterian do during this process?

- Support the ministry of the church through prayer, participation and financial support. Show up.
- Pray for the PNC regularly.

To contact the PNC, email pnc@shallowford.org.



LIVING

THE SHALLOWFORD WAY

Each week, members of the Shallowford congregation worship in our sacred spaces, gather for churchwide events and programs, and volunteer to help others. Below are a few recent highlights from activities in 2019. Find us on Facebook (*Shallowford Presbyterian Church*) or Instagram (*@Shallowfordpc*) for an in-depth look into our fun and faith-filled fellowship!



Eagle Scout Ceremony



Annual Staff Retreat



Disaster Relief Efforts



Will DeBragga's Baptism



SPW: Gibbs Gardens



College of Elders Gathering

MEET TWO OF OUR MUSIC STAFF



2016

Frances Hart

Position: Music Ministry Assistant

Roles & Responsibilities: Put broadly, Frances oversees the administrative details of Shallowford's music ministry. More specifically, she handles the paperwork that corresponds with having up to 200 people participate in the church's music programs every year. Frances also manages musician records, maintains the music library, and aids with choir set-up. She assists with the Chapel Choir's evergreen sale in December and the Chapel Choir's tour in June.

"For the evergreen sale, the youth and parents do all the work, and I handle order intake. When it comes to choir tour, I work with Emily to locate hotels and activities for the youth, as well as finalize reservations. I maintain a record of everything tour-related, including a budget, so we have a template for the following year."

What brought you to Shallowford?

"Well, I grew up singing in choirs and listening to my dad preach. I'm absolutely passionate about enhancing worship through song. I also love the idea that what we do is for God's glory and not our own. Once I relayed that to Emily, we hit it off really well, and I've been here ever since."

What is your FAVORITE part of your job?

"Truly, I love all of it. But my favorite part is helping Emily enhance the worship service for the congregation. And when I'm able to see the culmination of our hard work, the service flowing beautifully from one element to the next, I feel that it offers a sense of God's presence that can't be measured any other way."

What DRIVES you daily?

"My daily motivation is the pure joy of what I do. I love getting to the office and working on details that enrich the experience of congregation members. And I'm surrounded by people doing the Lord's work... what's not to love?"



2018

Anne Thomas

Position: Director of Children's Choirs

Roles & Responsibilities: Anne teaches the Cherub, Trinity and Westminster Choirs. Her approach to each is unique:

"On Sunday morning, I take the Cherubs [three-, four-, and five-year-olds] from worship after the children's sermon. I try to have my choir session piggy-back on the message from their Sunday School teachings. On Wednesday nights, I meet with first- and second-graders, and together we learn how to read notes, clap rhythms, and of course, sing. Later that evening, I meet with third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders to teach them rhythms, how to sight read, and how to be very expressive in music."

Anne also manages the music for the children's Christmas Eve service and directs the children's musical in the spring.

What is your BIGGEST piece of advice to choir kiddos?

"Listen louder than you sing. Anyone can sing— I want my students to be thinking musicians."

What are the MOST rewarding parts of your job?

"I love to see kids learning and having fun doing it. But I also like carving out time for prayer during my sessions with children. I allow them to offer up details about their week, which helps me learn more about them— where they are in their walk, and what their concerns are."

What is your FAVORITE aspect of Shallowford?

"God one hundred percent called me to this church. Here, I get to see so many kids walk with God; I get to touch so many lives. And that's awesome."

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

Interim Pastor
Sacred Space Editor

Rev. John M. Semmes
Rebecca Goode

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

2019

**ALL CHURCH
RETREAT**

**NEW
LOCATION**

A WEEKEND OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, & FAITH SHARING!

***Unicoi State Park* | Helen, GA**

COMING THIS OCTOBER 4-6, 2019

WWW.SHALLOWFORD.ORG