

SACRED SPACE

A PUBLICATION OF SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Winter 2019





From the Senior Pastor

2020 VISION

When I was in sixth grade, I told my dad that I could not read the board in math class. It was early evening and we were driving around our small town in his 1980s station wagon with blue plastic seats. “Really?” he asked. Always a problem-solver, my dad developed an on-the spot vision exam. “Tell me when you can read that green street sign,” he said, as he slowed his car to a crawl. I stared at the sign with my eyes squinted in focus as he crept forward at a snail’s pace. As we got closer, he kept looking at the sign, then looking over at me. “Are you sure you can’t read it yet?” “I think it starts with an A,” I said without confidence. Eventually, he bumped into the sign, making it wobble back and forth slightly against the pressure of our bumper. “Andrews!” I exclaimed, finally able to make out the street name. Later that week, I got my first pair of glasses.

In this season of Advent and the beginning of my time as your pastor, I am reflecting a lot on vision – and not just in the literal sense that helps us read street signs before we hit them. As we round out 2019 with Advent hymns and Christmas carols, what will guide us as we enter the new year? In short, what is our 2020 vision?

The theme of this edition of Sacred Space is leadership. And leadership takes vision: the ability to imagine what we cannot see and envision a way to make it reality. As Presbyterians, we believe in what Martin Luther called the “priesthood of all believers.” Every one of us has direct access to God in prayer and in the movement of the spirit.

Every one of us is called to be a leader in the church, each in our way. In my few short weeks as your pastor, I have been blessed to hear from some of you about your vision for this church. From what I have heard, your vision is that Shallowford be and remain a beacon of hope, a place of welcome and a distinctively Christian community. You want to see Shallowford continue to live out its mission of inviting all people to a faithful way of life in Christ and in community, and you want this church family to continue to be just that: a family, who knows each other, cares for each other, and holds each other up in faith.

So do I.

As 2019 comes to a close, Christmas carols start to fill the air, and 2020 comes into view, know that I am grateful for each of you. I count it as an immeasurable honor to call myself your pastor, and I am excited to walk alongside you as we live out God’s vision for our life of faith together.

Peace,

Rev. Anna George Traynham



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ON THE COVER

Pictured on the cover is a view of Shallowford's sanctuary taken from the balcony pews. The Shallowford sanctuary holds roughly up to 700 members and welcomes friends, visitors, and members of all ages for Sunday worship. For specific Sunday information, visit www.shallowford.org.



Senior Pastor

#5

SHALLOWFORD WELCOMES FIFTH SENIOR PASTOR, REVEREND ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM

On September 8 2019, the congregation voted (overwhelmingly) to call the Rev. Anna George Traynham as our next senior pastor. This exciting event was the culmination of more than a year of effort by the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) as they sought to call God's choice for Shallowford. Pastor Anna began her ministry on November 4 as just the fifth senior pastor and the first female senior pastor in our 60+ year history.

The PNC began their search in August of 2018, spending the first 3 months interviewing staff and lay leaders and studying the results of the CAT survey. The PNC then wrote the Ministry Information Form (MIF), which served both as church resume and job description. The PNC received almost 100 Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). The PNC also received numerous referrals from the congregation and friends of the church. After six months of studying PIFs, listening to online sermons, and conducting phone and in-person interviews, one candidate stood out from the rest.

The PNC was deeply impressed by the Rev. Anna George Traynham's sermons, including their strong connection to the biblical text, their emphasis on strengthening our covenant relationship to God, and the insight they provided on

how that covenant can be lived out in our world today. Pastor Anna is nationally known for skills in writing liturgy, and the PNC experienced her prayerful heart first-hand in their meetings together. The PNC was also moved by how adept Anna is at forming deep relationships with others. It was clear that Anna's strong intellect, her passion for and ability to articulate her faith, and her strong relational skills made her a great fit for Shallowford.

"Hearing of a dynamic young pastor, one coming from a congregation known for having such an impact on serving the marginalized on the streets of Atlanta, one who grasps the imperative for serving in such a diverse, yet fractured world – it's just exciting! I believe Anna will touch the hearts and minds of our Shallowford family in ways that encourage us to become even more loving, more diverse, and richer in our outreach."

– Jimmy Shafe

Pastor Anna grew up in a Presbyterian family in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. She graduated from Presbyterian College with a BA in Religion and Christian Education and then earned a Master's of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary. She was called to Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta as a Lilly Resident pastor in 2014. As Central went through several years of transition, Anna stepped in and filled a variety of leadership roles including preaching, leading stewardship campaigns, managing local and global missions and a wide array of other Head of Staff responsibilities. She is in the process of completing an MBA from the Citadel which has strengthened her financial and administrative skills which will be invaluable as she leads a large, dynamic church like Shallowford.

"Davis and I are overjoyed by the news of Anna George Traynham! I've taken a look at the wonderful interview and info Rebecca sent to us, and I've listened to several of Anna's sermons. Wow. I can't wait to meet her! I sense God's spirit is on the move through her call to SPC, and I look forward with great anticipation to her ministry in and through our family of faith."

—Kay Stewart

After the congregational meeting on September 8th, the transition team quickly reconvened to outline its tasks for what promised to be a busy and exciting fall. The first priority was to give our interim pastor, the Reverend John Semmes, the proper send-off to show our appreciation for his guidance and leadership during the last 14 months of transition. Reverend Semmes preached his final sermon at Shallowford on November 3, followed by a farewell reception complete with a delicious variety of cookies provided by Shallowford's finest bakers. At the reception, members were encouraged to write a note with words of gratitude for Reverend Semmes. We all wish him the very best!

The transition team was also charged with welcoming Pastor Anna upon her start on November 4. The goal as a committee was to not only show Shallowford's excitement with a signature welcome but also to do anything possible to ensure her first few months go smoothly. Danielle Lawn, SPC Office Administrator, created a comprehensive schedule for Reverend Traynham's first month, including information on

Shallowford's many groups so Anna can meet as many members as possible. The Transition Team also provided a welcome gift and will continue to serve as a support team for anything she needs. Lastly, the transition team planned her official welcome reception following her installation on December 1. It was our pleasure to welcome invited clergy and guests who attended her service!





Whitman Buechner, 7th Grade

RENEWING OUR SPIRIT

EXCERPTS FROM YOUTH SUNDAY SERMONS GIVEN BY SPC YOUTH LEADERS

Ms. CLAIRE TURNEY,

CHAPEL CHOIR PRESIDENT, 11TH GRADE

"...The scripture today urges us to "be holy in all our conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

But what does it actually mean to be holy? Paul's letter to the Romans says, "to set the mind on the Spirit is life in peace. You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

I believe when we let the Holy Spirit guide our lives, our actions become holy. By preparing our minds for the spirit to move in us, our actions become holy. By trusting to put our faith in Jesus, our actions become holy. Through his love and grace the gospel is renewed and revealed in each of us.

When I look out at all of you, I am confident that Shallowford's spirit is alive and evolving today just the same as within each of us, and the Holy Spirit is present in this place of grace. I feel the spirit here when the sanctuary rings with music, when sunlight streams in through the chapel windows, when Sunday school teachers pray in heritage hall, when the great hall is filled with laughter and good food, and when this holy congregation invites change into our ever-adapting church..."

Ms. ELIZABETH SMITH-PURCELL,

CHAPEL CHOIR TREASURER, 11TH GRADE

"...The summer before freshman year, Bradley took us on a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico and my 14 year old self was in full force. I didn't want to go. None of my friends were going, it was in the middle of nowhere, and when Bradley told us there was no running water and we would have to use outhouses for the week, I immediately went home and begged my mom to stay. Spoiler: she made me go anyway. Ironically, this trip ended up being one of my favorites.

It was in a place I had never been before, and so I got to feel the same Spirit in a new way, even though it was unfamiliar.

When I think back to when I was 14, I was annoying in the sense that I wouldn't accept change. If I could give her any advice, it would be this line from our scripture this morning: "Open your mind for action, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance."

Change is a good thing. Change brings new friends, new experiences, and new outlooks on life.

As we experience this new season at Shallowford, I am confident that we can grow together and that as we embrace that growth we will renew our Spirit..."

1 PETER 1:13-16



There are several ways to define gratitude and certainly multiple

Each year, thousands of staff and volunteer hours are devoted to education, mission, and worship. Talent abounds from the youngest singer to the oldest teacher. But the way in which our congregation shares its resources – those financial resources that help to fulfill the mission of the church – is personal to some and public to us all.

In a very public way we share with each other our decision to invest financially in Shallowford. On Dedication Sunday, 317 families came forward to place their commitment for 2020. God was moving that day in and amongst us. Voices of gratitude came together for the glory of God and for the work and service that define Shallowford. Your voices were heard and your pledges were generous.

Thank you, Shallowford, for expressing gratitude with belief in the future and with faith in God's plan for our congregation. Two-thousand and twenty will be full of several firsts: the beginning of a new decade, the ministry of Shallowford's fifth senior pastor, and the practice of celebrating stewardship year-round.

Jake Burkard



A MINISTRY CENTERED AROUND FUN, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP!

Children's ministries all across the nation are facing a new world of ministry today - one that is shifting, and in Shallowford's case, expanding!

This fall our SPC kiddos and their families stayed active in the life of the church. Whether they fought off a fierce dragon at the annual fall kickoff party in August, which was specifically themed to match Cokesbury's 2020 Vacation Bible Theme, "Knights of North Castle"; traveled to Unicoi State Park to engage in intergenerational activities during the Fifth Annual All Church Retreat; built new friendships at the Trunk-or-Treat neighborhood community event; or learned how to carve and decorate pumpkins with the help of our youth volunteers during a pumpkin carving party - Shallowford children and families showed up!

Mrs. Anne, Director of Children's Choirs, reports that she has, on average, fifteen kindergartners present for Sunday morning rehearsals, and has added an additional five singers to the Cherub Choir since 2018.

Also this fall, Mary Ann Rutkowski, Associate Director of Music, and Grant Wright, Acting Director of Children's Ministries welcomed a handful of LaAmistad students into the Children's Ministry BLAST program (Bible & Bell Learning and Singing Together) for the very first time!

 **KIDS'**
Day Out

Let's craft for Advent! We are offering a kids' day out so we can spend time crafting, playing games, and having fun! Come full of energy ready to cut, decorate, and be creative! FOR SPECIFIC DATE/DETAILS and to register your child(ren), go to www.shallowford.org.



All Church Retreat



Fall Kick Off Party



Trunk-or-Treat



Fall Kick Off Party



Children & Youth Pumpkin Carving Party

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Devotional written by Rev. E. Bradley Kibler

*O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!*

- ISAIAH 2:5

Seven years ago, I ventured into the depths of Pettyjohn's Cave in Pigeon Mountain, Ga. for my first experience spelunking. We descended underground and spent hours exploring the cave, avoiding the bats, discovering stalagmites, and crawling on our hands and knees through something called the Worm Tube. The landscape and artistry of the rooms were breathtaking, bizarre, and whimsical.

Halfway through our journey, our group leader asked us to take a seat and turn off our head lamps so that we sat in complete darkness, silence, and stillness.

Darkness so intense you couldn't see your own hand much less your neighbor.

Silence so stark that all you could hear was the unnerving sounds of dripping around you.

Stillness so profound that you could have been in a hall closet alone or on an empty ballfield.

After a few minutes of this mesmerizing yet unsettling exercise, our leader lit a match. Suddenly, the entire cavern room was filled with light. And just like that, we were able to face again what was unknown and journey onward.

It is impossible for me to escape this image when I hear

the prophet's words about walking in the light of the Lord. The prophet is responding to people dealing with political and social pressures, but invites them to participate in hope by "walk[ing] in the light." Life can be complicated and difficult and unknown, particularly when we only seek energy, motivation, and direction from ourselves. The prophet wisely redirects the people, then, to focus on embodying God's vision in the word. For when we allow our faith to be the center of our drive and purpose, we find that the hope can actually overwhelm the unknown—just as the light of a single match can overwhelm the darkness of a cave.

As we begin the journey to the manger, let us be reminded of the star shining so brightly that its light guided many to a tiny child - Jesus Christ - who would bring the ultimate hope to the world. And so, on this first Sunday in Advent, I echo the invitation of the prophet, "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

Hope

LET US PRAY

**God of Hope,
Help us to recognize and follow the shining star that
is guiding us to Jesus. Give us the confidence and
purpose to walk in the light of faith so that we may
experience and share the hope, peace, joy, and love
that comes from You. Amen.**

Artwork by: SPC Children during Wednesday Blast Program; The stump is a reference to Isaiah 11:1-6 (stump of Jesse, promised one, peaceful kingdom).



Isaiah 11:1-10

2ND

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Devotional written by Rev. Laura H. Jernigan

Peace

What does peace look like? Isaiah's vision helps us to see as God sees. Isaiah's earliest readers were anxiously wondering about God's rule in the world and doubting if, and how, peace would come. But Isaiah's poetic words cast a new vision for them to see. So they do for us now, in our own anxiety and doubt, as they beckon us to lift our own eyes and see God's intentions.

Isaiah's vision has inspired poetry, music, and art. A familiar series of paintings by American Quaker artist Edward Hicks, entitled, *The Peaceable Kingdom* depicts a little child surrounded by animals, some of whom are usually in violent pursuit of the others as victims, but who now sit harmoniously together. A child is even portrayed as petting a formerly ferocious lion who has been transformed into a gentle creature. Unrealistic? Only a sweet painting? Not in the mind's eye of the prophet. Isaiah lifts up the coming age when God's Messiah rules with faithfulness and righteousness and judges

on behalf of the meek. This vision links us again to God's intended plan: when no one shall destroy or be hurt by the other and where little children fearlessly lead the way into a peace-making and peace-giving community.

Isaiah's vision inspired me to compose a children's anthem, which our children will sing on the second Sunday of Advent.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb.

The panther sleep with the baby goat.

And a little child shall lead them in peace on that day.

They shall lie down in peace on God's mountain.

They shall not hurt or kill or destroy.

*And all the earth will be filled with God's glory
Just as the waters cover the sea. (1)*

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. As we do, may we see Isaiah's vision anew and by our own daily words and actions, lead the world into God's peaceable kingdom.

LET US PRAY

**God, thank you for vision of peace.
Inspire us to practice your intentions.
Through your child Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Artwork by: SPC Children during Wednesday BLAST Program; The river is a reference to Ezekiel 47:1-12 (river of water that brings life flowing from Temple, bringing green to the desert).



3RD

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Isaiah 35:1-10**Devotional written by Rev. Catherine E. Foster*

Wilderness. Desert. Exile. As urban Atlantans, we might not instantly identify with these words, but this is exactly how the Prophet Isaiah describes our current reality. Take a moment to read the ten verses of Isaiah 35. Like our 21st century Christmas season, this chapter is filled with festive activity and good cheer. But the author is describing God's vision for the people in the future, not the present.

Right now, Isaiah's audience is in exile in Babylon, far from the sights, smells, and comforts of home. Their spiritual lives feel like a desert, parched for a word from the Lord and far from any vibrant life. They seem to be wandering again in the wilderness, afraid of predatory animals and worried about getting lost.

While our physical realities may not match those of the ancient Israelites, surely we can identify with some of their emotional, spiritual, and relational challenges. We know the longing and loss of exile when we go off to college, relocate for a new job, end a relationship, spend the night in a hospital, or move into an assisted living facility. We experience the desert when we cannot sense God's presence with us, wrestle with the natural doubts of discipleship, or feel spiritually burned-out.

And our wilderness is all too real when we do not know the right next step, lose sleep from worry, or fear for the future.

Isaiah is prophesying for all of us who know "sorrow and sighing" (v. 10). For those in exile, Isaiah sees a highway called the Holy Way that leads home (v. 8). To those in the desert, Isaiah foretells the blossoming plants and streams of water (vv. 2, 6). And to those in the wilderness, Isaiah assures them there is nothing to fear and no way to get lost (vv. 8-9).

And because of this good news, Isaiah invites all of us to rejoice. He promises that we "shall obtain joy and gladness" (v. 10). Our joy does not originate in our present circumstances, but in God's promises of future transformation. Even as life is difficult, even as we wait for Christ to come, even now, we can rejoice. With God's end in mind, joy is ours now.

joy



LET US PRAY

O come, o come, Emmanuel. Ransom us from the lonely, dry, and frightening places in our lives. Strengthen us with your promises for healing, direction, and security. Fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing "Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." And may our faith and our lives rejoice in your Advent promises. In Christ's holy name, Amen.

Artwork by: SPS students Connor Hoggard, Layla Alexander, and Amelia Moseley.

Matthew 1:18-25

4TH

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Devotional written by Rev. Anna George Traynham

Love

Do you want me to go with you?"

My parents said those words as I got ready to walk through the doors of a new school for the first time.

"Do you want me to go with you?" they asked, knowing that doing something scary with someone you love makes it much less scary, after all. As an adult, my husband Blake is always quick to say those words when I have a doctor's appointment, and my best friend always finds a way to be with me when life gets especially hard or especially worthy of celebration.

I am convinced that being *with* people is one of the purest expressions of love. In times of sadness or joy, fear or celebration, we want to be with the people we love: to witness the pitch of their laughter or the depth of their pain, the warmth of their hands, or the beating of their hearts. We sit by hospital beds waiting to offer ice chips and prayers and we

pace in waiting rooms eager to hear the news of a healthy birth. There is no better way to express love than simply being *with* one another.

"And they shall name him Emmanuel", which means, 'God is with us.'"

In Jesus Christ, God expresses divine love in an unthinkable way. God chooses to be with us in Love made flesh. God chooses to know our joy and feel our pain. In *A Nazareth Manifesto*, theologian Samuel Wells offers these words about our Emmanuel God: "*Being with...* has only one motivation: it is because the other is precious for [their] own sake, solely to be enjoyed with no thought to use. *Being with* can only be done for love, and in that, it imitates the way God loves us."

Everything we know and believe as Christians is built on the foundation of this bold affirmation: God is with us. As followers of Christ, perhaps the most faithful thing we can do is be with one another.

LET US PRAY

Holy One, Emmanuel, we give you thanks for your presence in our lives. As you promise to be with us, move us to be with one another: to bear witness to our neighbors' joy and pain and to be bearers of your divine love. In the name of Christ who was your Love-made-flesh, Amen.

Artwork by:
SPS students Kate Hoggard,
Jake Sanchez, and Richard Davis.





NEW! ADULT MUSICAL OFFERING

The Joy Chorale, Shallowford's new daytime choir for adults, is up and running! Mary Ann Rutkowski, Associate Director of Music is thrilled to direct this wonderfully diverse group of singers with 18 members! The choir joined with all of the other Shallowford vocal choirs in worship on Stewardship Dedication Sunday and offered an anthem in worship in mid-November. The choir looks forward to singing at the Annual Alzheimer's Support Group Luncheon in December as well as the SPW Advent services. Plans for future anthems in worship are in the works too.

The Joy Chorale meets on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:45 a.m. and many of the members continue the fellowship by going to lunch together after rehearsal. This musical offering is perfect for members who travel often or have other Sunday responsibilities. All are welcome!

Emily Floyd shares some of the background information as to Shallowford's need for a daytime choir:

"For several years, I've seen a need and opportunity to provide another singing group. For adults who can't drive at night, providing a choir that meets during the daytime is important. For adults who don't feel ready for the difficulty of the Chancel Choir repertoire, the Joy Chorale provides an entry-level group to meet singers where they are, whether experienced or inexperienced. For adults looking to make friends and share a love of music, this choir provides a social network. As promised by the name of the group, these singers are happy! I'm so grateful for Mary Ann's leadership and for the happy singers of all ages who have committed to this new endeavor!"



Scotland Tour 2020

Fifty-six youth will travel to Scotland in June of 2020 to connect with our church roots, expand their horizons, and spend extended time together growing in faith! Since 2000, the Chapel Choir has been to Scotland five times, and several of the churches (Kinnoull Parish in Perth and Crown Church in Inverness) have hosted us for each trip. They pull out all the stops with homemade cookies, dinners, and even authentic ceilidhs (Scottish gatherings with dance, music, food, and poetry).

The choir performs in St. Giles, which is one of the largest cathedrals in Edinburgh. Each time we sing there, the

students are overwhelmed with gratitude as passersby stop to listen to the glorious sounds of the Chapel Choir. Our youth always remark about how different church is there. They notice that the Church of Scotland congregations are hungry to hear from youth who love singing their faith. We are glad to get to know the people of Scotland and appreciate how we are different and the same, to experience their culture through the context of visiting churches and historical sites, and to feel gratitude for SPC and home.

THE SESSION:

KEEPING SPC ORGANIZED, NURTURED & ON MISSION

A part of the Reformed tradition within Protestantism, Presbyterianism traces its origins to Britain, particularly Scotland in the 1600s. Its roots go back even farther to John Calvin, Martin Luther, and the Reformation in the 16th century. Presbyterian churches derive their name from the presbyterian or representative form of church government firmly established in each local church through its session.

The word session comes from the Latin *sessio* meaning “to sit”, as in sitting to deliberate or talk about something. The SPC Session consists of 25 active elders (Ruling Elders or leaders), 24 adults, and one youth, elected by the congregation. SPC’s ordained ministers – called Teaching Elders – are also session members.

The Session is responsible for the mission and government of the church. The 25 members lead the 13 active committees that oversee and manage the work of running Shallowford Presbyterian Church. The Session includes a balance of women and men in a wide range of ages from the teenage Youth Elder and up. The church imposes no age limit and strives to ensure diversity of talents, backgrounds, and interests in order to represent the makeup of the congregation. Each elder commits to serve a three-year term, except the Youth Elder who serves one year.

Session members do their work through active committees that include additional members of the congregation. SPC welcomes and needs everyone to be involved and committed.

Following is a list of committees and mission statements for the 13 Committees that make up the Shallowford Session:

1. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Chairs: Brad Bryant & Cathy Palmer) – recruits volunteer teachers for the Children’s Ministries and Adult Education divisions and helps plan and choose curriculum.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

(Chair: Chuck Achuff) – creates communications strategies for church programs, events, and activities to raise awareness, promote attendance, and encourage inviting others.

3. CONGREGATIONAL CARE

(Chair: Bob Smithers) – focuses on the training, support and structuring of care ministry to the congregation and the community through 12 sub-committees.

4. FACILITIES

(Chairs: Eero Maki & Bill Kendall) – oversees maintenance and security of buildings, furnishings, grounds, vehicles and equipment, and manages related costs.

5. FINANCE

(Chairs: Courtney Boyd & Nancy Phillimore) – ensures the safeguarding, reporting, and use of the church’s financial resources. The Support and Endowment Committee is a sub-committee.

SESSION MODERATOR, REV. ANNA GEORGE TRAYNHAM



ANNUAL COLLEGE OF ELDERS DINNER FOR CURRENT & FORMER SESSION MEMBERS



6. MISSION

(Chair: Rob Pope) - oversees the congregation's involvement in service ministries, including SPC Food Pantry, LaAmistad, Memorial Drive Ministries, NETworks, Habitat for Humanity, and more!

11. WELCOMING

(Chairs: Barbara Reeves & Steve Benise) - helps foster a welcoming atmosphere attractive to visitors and follows up to provide information and invitations for them to return.

7. PERSONNEL

(Chair: Carolyn Carl) - provides for an orderly, focused and considerate means to build a healthy work environment. It consults with the Head of Staff concerning all personnel issues or other concerns.

12. WORSHIP & MUSIC

(Chairs: Monica Hollingsworth & Robby Robinson) - works with ministers, the Director of Music Ministries, and staff on all Sunday worship and special services, along with overseeing all choirs, ushers, sound systems, the Flower Guild and facility use requests.

8. PROGRAMS

(Chair: Genny Tuggey) - creates, develops, and provides leadership for programs that engage the broad spectrum of SPC membership, as well as the community.

13. YOUTH

(Chair: Lisa Turney) - coordinates and supports all programming and activities for youth: Sunday School, Youth Group, small groups, mission trips, and more.

9. SHALLOWFORD SCHOOL

(Chair: David Reid) - serves as a Board of Directors, comprised of parents of the students and church members and oversees the Shallowford School.

10. STEWARDSHIP

(Chairs: Julie Burkhard & Terry O'Toole) - plans and executes the annual Stewardship campaign to solicit pledges for the operating budget.

Read highlights from monthly session meetings online at

WWW.SHALLOWFORD.ORG/MEMBER/#SESSION

YOUR SHALLY GO-TO GUIDE AND WHOM TO ASK

Throughout the course of 60 years, Shallowford has grown to become a 1000 member congregation. With a consistent yearning for faith-based programs and intergenerational ministry, Shallowford continues to restructure staff positions to support the needs of its own community.

Within the past five years, Shallowford has created several new positions in an effort to support the growing needs of the church. Several areas of ministry are listed below. Please browse through the list of commonly-asked-about-topics and contact a staff member with specific questions.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Contact Danielle Lawn, Office Administrator, if you are looking to...

- Join the church!
- Create a Realm Connect account
- Update your address or phone #
- Request a Printed Directory
- Request member information
- Sponsor Flowers for Worship

DLAWN@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

CHOIRS

Do you have specific choir questions? The following music staff are here to help!

- Scotland Tour Trip Information: Frances at MUSIC@SHALLOWFORD.ORG
- Children's BLAST Program & Choirs: Anne at ATHOMAS@SHALLOWFORD.ORG
- Looking to join the Chancel Choir? Emily at EFLOYD@SHALLOWFORD.ORG
- Bell Choir or NEW! Daytime Choir Info: Mary Ann at MRUTKOWSKI@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

FACILITY ASSISTANCE

Reach out to Bill Thornton, Facilities Administrator, if you are in need of...

- Access to locked or secured areas
- Audio/Visual services for a presentation
- Report a need for facilities assistance
- A Facilities Use Agreement document

BTHORNTON@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

For individual room requests, email DLAWN@SHALLOWFORD.ORG.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact Rebecca Goode, Communications Director, for assistance with...

- Churchwide announcements
- The Shallowford Website
- Temporary signage for special events
- Accessing SPC Social Media Accounts
- Printed promotional materials
- Sacred Space submissions

RGOODE@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

GENERAL Q/A

Meghan Todd, Administrative Assistant, and a team of loyal volunteer receptionists are ready to help answer your questions. Give us a call!

CHURCH OFFICE

(404) 321-1844

MTODD@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

MEMBER CARE

Connect with Laura Jernigan, Parish Associate for Congregational Care to...

- Notify pastors of care needs
- Request In-Home Communion

LJERNIGAN@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

Contact Meghan Todd to...

- Submit a prayer request
- Receive weekly prayer concerns emails

FINANCES

Contact Magalie Nemorin, Finance Coordinator for finance-related questions regarding...

- How to Submit Your Pledge
- Set-up Automatic Payments/Bank drafts
- Receive Individual Giving Statement
- Submit Reimbursement Check Requests

MNEMORIN@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Do you have specific questions regarding our children and youth? The following staff can help!

- Youth Ministry (6th-12th Graders): Bradley Kibler at BKIBLER@SHALLOWFORD.ORG
- Children's Ministry (Ages 3-5th Grade): Grant Wright at gwright@SHALLOWFORD.ORG
- Meal Plans & Trip Payments: Jill Jung at jjung@shallowford.org

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Visit shallowford.org/serve for a list of volunteer opportunities, both at the church and in the community.

Contact Catherine Foster, Associate Pastor for Mission & Discipleship, with mission ministry questions.

CFOSTER@SHALLOWFORD.ORG

LIVING THE SHALLOWFORD WAY

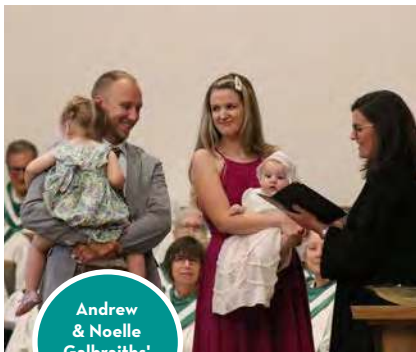
Each week, members of the Shallowford congregation worship in our sacred spaces, gather for churchwide events and programs, and volunteer to help others. Below are a few recent highlights from activities in 2019. Find us on Facebook (*Shallowford Presbyterian Church*) or Instagram (*@Shallowfordpc*)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



SPWomen visit
High Museum
of Art



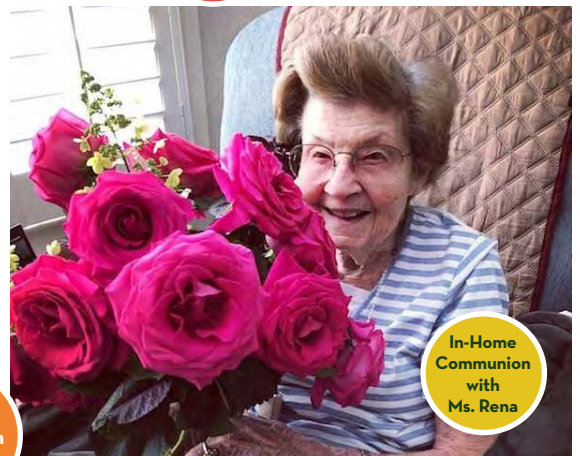
First
Shally Eats
Outing



Andrew
& Noelle
Galbraiths'
Baptisms



World
Communion
Sunday



In-Home
Communion
with
Ms. Rena



5th Annual
All Church
Retreat @
Unicoi State
Park

Inviting All People

To a Faithful Way of Life in Christ and in Community

Plan a Visit

Listen to Sermons

WWW.SHALLOWFORD.ORG



After 15 months of planning and hard work, last August, Shallowford announced the launch of www.shallowford.org. As you can see, it has a fresh new look and easy navigation to help you get the information you need quickly and efficiently. Many thanks to your Communications Committee, Rebecca Goode (Director of Communications), and Roseann Sketel (Website Coordinator) for launching such a beautiful website.

We evaluated church and non-profit websites from all over the country that had received awards for design, creativity, and ease of use. Having compiled a list of likes and dislikes, we then set out to find a website development and hosting company with which we could partner. Rebecca sent proposal requests to a number of firms and had more in-depth conversations with three. We selected @DevDept as our development and hosting partner.

The web development team from @DevDept worked side by side with our Communications staff to plan the overall design, individual templates, and page content. Old copy was updated or eliminated. The new site came together over the space of four months and officially launched on Sunday, August 4, 2019 just in time for Fall Kickoff.

We encourage everyone to visit and explore the site, discover the full spectrum of ways to serve the community and serve the church. Feel free to listen to recorded sermons (under "Sunday"), learn more about choirs for all ages (under "Music/Choirs"), flip through our various Sunday School classes (under "Sunday/Sunday School"), find a small group (under "Connect"), staff photos (under "Who We Are/Staff"), and much more!

To stay connected on social media, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, SoundCloud, and Vimeo. If you have any questions or feedback you would like to share with our team, please do so by filling out the form on the "Contact Us" page on shallowford.org.

IN LATE 2018, THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SET THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

1. Represent Shallowford as a welcoming, vibrant, growing community of faith;
2. Reach our varying communities: new neighbors and visitors, members, mission partners, etc.;
3. User-friendly on all devices including phones, tablets and computer screens;
4. Navigation-friendly and easy to find information;
5. Ease of storing audio recordings (sermons & music);
6. Maintain and reduce the ongoing cost of web support; and
7. Ability to add new features through an easily operable content management system.



MEET OUR SHALLOWFORD STAFF



10 Yrs.
at SPC

Roseann Sketel

Position: Website Coordinator

Roles & Responsibilities: As the Website Coordinator, I work on all things related to the maintenance, updating, and reporting on the Shallowford website. This includes adding new events to the church calendar, posting news, and featuring special announcements. Behind the scenes I use Google Analytics to keep up-to-date reporting on site traffic, load time, and to gather information on our website users to better serve them. Other projects - like the Evergreen Sale - require a storefront page to be built, so I maintain a number of different plug-ins to our site.

How has your job changed since joining the staff in 2009?

My job continually changes to keep up with new technology. Many people might not realize that Shallowford has had four different websites since I joined. Shallowford has done a good job keeping up with technology and has made our website a priority.

What do you enjoy most about the newly redesigned website?

I love all the new tools that came with the new site, including buttons, banners, maps, and sound bites. The new tools came with a learning curve for me, but I am enjoying the functionality of all the new features. Overall the new site is much more interactive and has such a clean design.

What has been your favorite part about working at SPC over the last 10 years?

The people. Everyone is always helpful and works well together like a family. I also enjoy interacting with the members and am constantly impressed with how willing everyone is to volunteer. Shallowford is such a growing and busy church!



New
to Staff
Fall 2019

Bill Thornton

Position: Facilities Administrator

Roles & Responsibilities: I am responsible for the care and maintenance of our beautiful campus. Together with Dooley, I work to keep everything in great condition and find ways to make things better. We have a group of vendors we work with to help care for our facilities and I act as their point of contact. I also manage the facility requests and offer my assistance with any special arrangements.

What brought you to Shallowford? And why did you ultimately decide on a career in facility maintenance?

I was the Church Administrator for a large Methodist church in Titusville, FL. before we moved to Atlanta. A lot of what I did there mirrors what I do here. As to a career in Facilities Maintenance, I have a very diverse skill set, developed over 20 years in the Army and from doing the things I love to do in my spare time that fit into this career path.

What project do you look forward to the most while working at Shallowford?

There are so many projects I look forward to working on. If I had to pick one, it would be to get the Sanctuary to a more stable temperature so that the beautiful pipe organ wouldn't have to go through fluctuation and need retuning so often.

What does "church work" mean to you?

Having worked for two separate churches now, to me "church work" means caring for the church while the church cares for others. My "church work" includes keeping everything functioning and finding ways to make our facilities better and less expensive to operate so that more funds can be used for missions and ministries.



Sacred Space is a publication of
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Senior Pastor
Sacred Space Editor

Rev. Anna George Traynham
Rebecca Goode

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School Hour

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



STAY CONNECTED!



All Are Welcome at Shallowford

ADVENT 2019

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Sundays, December 1-15, 2019

SENIOR PASTOR INSTALLATION SERVICE

December 1, 2019 @ 11:00 am

SPW ADVENT SERVICES

December 3, 2019 @ 11:00 am + Lunch
December 4, 2019 @ 6:30 pm (service only)

EVERGREEN PICK UP + JOY OF GIVING

December 7, 2019 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11, 2019
5:45 pm, Dinner & 6:30 pm, Concert

SERVICE FOR COMFORT & HOPE

December 18, 2019 @ 7:00 pm, Chapel

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 22, 2019 @ 6 pm, SPC Parking Lot

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2019
Children's Celebration, 4:00 pm, Sanctuary
Service of Lessons & Carols, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

WORSHIP AS ONE

December 29, 2019 @ 10:00 am, Sanctuary

LENTEN 2020

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 26, 2020

LENTEN HABITAT BUILD

Saturdays, February 15 through April 4, 2020

JOURNEY WITH JESUS

April 6-10, 2020

MAUNDY THURSDAY (In-Home Communion)

April 9, 2020

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

April 10, 2020
12:00 & 7:00 pm

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 11, 2020, 9:00 - 11:00 am

EASTER WORSHIP

April 12, 2020
Sunrise Service, ~7:10 am, Ballfield
Early Service, 8:45 am, Chapel
Late Service, 11:00 am, Sanctuary