

SACRED SPACE

A Publication of Shallowford Presbyterian Church | Winter 2022



UKRAINE BENEFIT CONCERT

\$50,000 RAISED

Cover image and featured photos captured by professional photographer Mark Rainey



A Message from the Senior Pastor

GREETINGS FROM SHALLOWFORD

Rev. Anna George Traynham | atraynham@shallowford.org

It is hard to believe that I have been serving God with this congregation for over three years now. In that time, this church has survived and thrived through a global pandemic together. We have buried beloved saints, baptized precious babies, welcomed new members, and imagined new ministries. Shallowford is a vibrant, engaging congregation, and it is an incredible joy to serve as a pastor here!

Over the summer, church leaders conducted a listening campaign, asking over 100 members what they value and hope for Shallowford. It was a joyful process, and several themes emerged from our conversations.

Above all, our congregation values **community**. In this branch of the body of Christ, we seek to know each other, pray for one another, lean on each other, and walk together on our faith journeys. Any day of the week, you will find Shallowford members practicing faithful community through small groups and Sunday school classes, prayer and visitation ministries, support groups, and more.

Our second highest value is **music and worship**, and we are committed to continuing our strong legacy of music ministry for all ages. In the fall, we said goodbye to our Director of Music Ministries, Emily Floyd, as she headed

to North Carolina to accept a call closer to her husband.

While we miss her greatly, we are also energized about what God might have in store for us next. Without a doubt, this church will continue to glorify God with excellent music.

Shallowford also highly values **mission** and **service**, which you will read more about in this edition of *Sacred Space*. Through the Shallowford Food Pantry and strong partnerships with nonprofits near and far, we seek to reflect the hope and justice of God in tangible ways. In the reign of God, all hungry bellies will be filled, all people will have a warm place to lay their heads, and every person will know they are loved. Justice will flow like waters, and hope will rise like the sun. When we serve our neighbors in need, we are helping the world to reflect God's vision.

If you are not already a part of this family of faith, we invite you to visit us on a Sunday morning! You will be greeted and welcomed. You will hear scripture, music, and a sermon. Our children will say the most important words you will hear all week: *God loves you, and God loves me.*

Peace,

CONNECT WITH THE CLERGY



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Winter 2022

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ON THE COVER

Pictured on the cover is a view from the balcony of Shallowford's Sanctuary featuring the various choir members, instrumentalists and singers who generously gave their time and talent to play at the Atlanta is United for Ukraine, a benefit concert last Spring. Photos captured by professional photographer, Mark Rainey.

Children, Youth, and Adult Happenings @ SPC

At Shallowford we offer a variety of opportunities for men, women, and children of all ages to connect and engage in the life of the church.

Maggie & Andrew Galbraith with their daughters.



MAKING SWEET MEMORIES

Shallowford's youngest members (and parents) gathered this summer around picnic tables at the local Bruster's Ice Cream to enjoy a sweet treat and each other's company. This summer, Associate Pastor for Children, Landon Dillard, sought to provide parents with easy opportunities to engage their young children with other church members while keeping their busy schedules in mind.

Intergenerational fellowship is one of the things Shallowford does best. These socials were the perfect opportunity for members of all ages to pause their hectic summer schedules and gather outside. Sara Simonds, mom of Lily (3) and George (1) shared, "We loved it! It was great to see everyone together and enjoy ice cream with our Shallowford family!" For their part, Bruster's was generous enough to share 10% of their proceeds from this event with Shallowford.

SPC Children's Choirs come together in song.



2022 SPRING CONCERT

This past May, Shallowford's children's choirs showcased their talent and hard work in a concert themed, "The Word of God Will Help Us Grow."

Anne Thomas, Director of Children's Choirs, notes, "This program felt like quite an accomplishment following all the changes the COVID pandemic brought. Despite the obstacles, our children worked hard as a community of singers and ringers and continued to develop deep friendships with each other."

At the end of the program, Anne and Pastor Landon handed out awards to the participants. Anne explains, "Cherubs received a stuffed angel bear and Wednesday night BLAST participants received pins. Each year, these choir singers get a new pin to mark another amazing year of sharing God's love through song! It is just these types of experiences that help to seal our young people in God's abiding love and enrich our faith and trust in our Maker."

The Isaac family dressed in costume.



HALLOWEEN FUN ON WHEELS

Hundreds of Shallowford members and families in the community dressed up and made their way to Shallowford's parking lot to participate in the annual Trunk-or-Treat event. Several members transformed the trunks of their cars into spooky (and not-so-spooky) scenes that brought joy to participants of all ages.

With a story time lead by Stayce Bushart (member), games hosted by local high school volunteers, and enough candy to make Willy Wonka proud, there was something for everyone. Associate Pastor for Children, Landon Dillard, says, "Trunk-or-Treat had a large turnout from our community, school, and church. There was high energy and lots and lots of candy!"

If you'd like to decorate your trunk for next year's event, or participate in another of Shallowford's annual family-friendly events, reach out to Pastor Landon.

6th/7th Grade Boys Small Group and leaders.



YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

Sunday evenings during the school year, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., youth gather and share a meal, then break out for discussion and fun group activities. Shallowford offers a welcoming place for all middle and high school kids to relax and feel like a part of the family, deepen their faith, and build new relationships.

Once a month, from September through May, Shallowford's 6th through 12th-grade students meet in members' homes for a more intimate small group setting. Each year, youth are divided into groups specific to grade level, including 6th/7th girls, 6th/7th boys, 8th/9th girls, 8th/9th boys, 10th/11th/12th girls, and 10th/11th/12th boys.

This year's theme, "Welcome All," invites conversation around Scripture and how it relates to our everyday lives.

We have a great group of new and returning hosts who continue to teach, lead, and inspire the youth.

Youth girls & Maggie Johnson in the airport.



PAST & FUTURE MISSION TRIPS

No phones. No iPads. But instead a life-altering seven-day experience in Bisti, New Mexico on a Navajo Reservation with 30 dedicated Shallowford youth. This is the type of journey Bradley Kibler, Associate Pastor for Youth & Programs, knew would leave a lasting impact on these teens. They built new relationships, deepened their faith in God, and lived each day in the present. A warm and gracious Thank You to Shallowford for making this experience possible due to the generosity of the church.

We're excited to respond in faith in Summer 2023 as we head to North Carolina.

Raleigh Youth Mission allows young people to explore the hidden needs and struggles of those living on the margins within and around the City of Oaks. Together, Shallowford youth will serve alongside our neighbors who are homeless, in poverty, or food insecure.

Chapel Choir members on tour in Florida.



EVERGREEN SALE

Each fall, youth help manage the orders, sales, and pick up of fresh evergreen trees, wreaths, and roping brought to Shallowford straight from a North Carolina tree farm at the start of the Christmas season. A portion of the proceeds goes back to the choir to help fund instruments and equipment, as well as upcoming tours.

And in return, each summer Shallowford's Youth Choir use these proceeds to embark on a 10-day tour across the United States. As part of the Chapel Choir ministry, the annual summer choir tour nurtures young Christians as they learn about God together with their peers and witness with communities.

A huge thank you to the Shallowford congregation and our local neighbors for helping us to raise \$10,000 toward our chapel choir summer tour. Our youth feel supported by you, and we thank you for helping every child to be able to go on tour!

CONNECT

Children's Ministry | Rev. Landon Dillard, ldillard@shallowford.org
Children's Choirs | Anne Thomas, athomas@shallowford.org

Youth Ministry | Rev. Bradley Kibler, bkibler@shallowford.org
Young Adults | Maggie Johnson, mjohnson@shallowford.org

CONNECT



JOY CHORALE OFFERS UNIQUE APPEAL

"I hadn't sung in a chorus since I was 14," said Bill Long, "but I decided to give Shallowford's Joy Chorale a try since they welcome singers with varying levels of experience. It's been fun and I've learned a lot from fellow members and staff."

Music Director Emily Floyd formed Shallowford's newest choral ensemble about five years ago to offer members another choir option with the convenience of daytime rehearsals. "The chorale performs occasionally in worship or at events," said Emily, "and we'd love to have more singers. It has a small group feel where each person is known and cared for."

Member Lynn Rogers took the helm briefly until the arrival of Jinhee Kim, Shallowford's Associate Music Director and Organist.

"If you enjoy singing, we have a place for you," said Lynn. "No experience is necessary. We'll show you the ropes and I think you'll find joy singing with us."



EXPLORE YOUR SURROUNDINGS - ALL MEMBERS & FRIENDS WELCOME!

Once a month Shallowford Presbyterian Women plan an exciting intergenerational outing complete with fun, food and fellowship. These events are open to all church members and friends. For information about the upcoming 2023 outings, please contact Meg Rosselot at megrosselot@bellsouth.net.

- **Wednesday, January 11, 2023** - Absorb the SCAD Museum of Fashion & Film
- **Wednesday, February 14, 2023** - Tour Goodrun House & Garden
- **Wednesday, March 8, 2023** - Tour of the CDC
- **Tuesday, April 11, 2023** - Tour the Historic DeKalb County Courthouse
- **Wednesday, May 10, 2023** - Hike Stone Mountain



CAMARADERIE COUNTS

Shallowford recently tapped Kathy Corbett, Nancy Tomasovich, and Steve Skjei to co-chair the newly formed Older Adult Ministry Group.

"After limited social activity for nearly two years, we missed the camaraderie of being together," said Kathy. "People want to gather in groups, reconnect with friends, meet new folks, and share fellowship."

"Through this new ministry we will organize four events per year that will appeal to a wide audience," said Nancy. "This group has no pre-set agenda, and includes both men and women. We want everyone to enjoy the group and feel welcome."

To kick things off, the group held a delicious potluck lunch in the spring. In June, the group met for lunch at the Magnolia Room in Tucker, then returned to SPC in September for a Morning of Fun and Fellowship, including all sorts of games, homemade muffins, and 90th birthday celebration for Bob Sessions. November featured a "Friendsgiving" luncheon.

"Daytime gatherings in familiar settings seem more appealing and work best for older adults," said Kathy. "We are looking for more folks to join us!" Call the church office (404-321-1844) to join the group.



Flower Guild Blooms, Eager to Welcome More Volunteers

When Linda Hanks chaired the Worship Committee more than six years ago, she organized the Floral Guild to create arrangements for services each Sunday.

"I envisioned a group of volunteers who would not only buy and arrange flowers but also deconstruct the large arrangements and create small bouquets for hospitalized members or shut-ins," said Linda.

"The success of our efforts and the bonds we have formed while working together has exceeded my expectations," she continued. "We welcome others to grow this ministry. If they have a love of flowers, we'll teach them the rest. In addition to arranging, we need more volunteers with the flexibility to help deliver the small bouquets."

Early on, Linda brought in a floral designer to conduct a workshop for interested volunteers. The guild took off from there. Work starts on Friday when someone purchases flowers and supplies from a floral supply house. Members arrive Saturday morning to plan and execute Sunday's arrangements.

"We often cut flowers and greenery from our own yards or the church grounds to help accent the designs," said member Dianne Barkley.

These beautiful floral arrangements are featured weekly during 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship. And each week, the thoughtfully arranged flowers hold significant new meaning for our congregants. Shallowford members may donate and dedicate an arrangement throughout the year on any given Sunday.

Dedications are often made in honor of wedding anniversaries, the birth of a new baby, the death of a loved one, and celebrations and remembrances of any kind.

"We love being part of this ministry," said Linda. "The guild currently includes Linda, Dianne, Carolyn Fairey, Joan Groover, Cathy Palmer, Ellen Roberts, and Jan Shabazz. Contact any one of us, or call (404-321-1844) to learn more or to sponsor an arrangement."



ATLANTA IS UNITED FOR UKRAINE

A BENEFIT CONCERT

\$50,000 RAISED - THANK YOU



Olga Schpitko shares with concert goers about the devastation in her home country, Ukraine.

An incredibly moving article written by SPC member and concert organizer, Virginia Respress Fairchild.

The famous cellist Pablo Casals once remarked, "Why should love stop at the border? Our family is one. Each of us has a duty to his brothers. We are all leaves of the same tree, and the tree is humanity."

When Emily Floyd (former Music Director) and I first spoke about the possibility of a benefit concert to help the people of Ukraine, I could not have imagined what would unfold over the next few weeks. We had wondered aloud: could we turn \$50 into \$5000 with a benefit concert? Could we pull this off in a short amount of time? Could we find musicians in our community willing to perform for free? The answers turned out to be: yes, yes, and yes! The staff at Shallowford offered their unwavering support, the Chancel and Chapel Choirs jumped on board immediately, and every organization we reached out to responded with eagerness.

We knew from the beginning that the International Rescue Committee (IRC) would be the beneficiary of the concert's donations. As an international non-profit organization, the IRC provides comprehensive help to people affected by global humanitarian crises. The Atlanta chapter of the IRC provides direct support for families resettling in the community. Between the conflicts

in Afghanistan and Ukraine, the number of families needing support has increased tenfold in the past year.

Shallowford and the IRC recently worked together to help the lovely Nikzad family, refugees from Afghanistan, settle into a home in Clarkston. Serendipitously, the IRC Atlanta headquarters is just down the road at Northlake, and its Executive Director, Justin Howell, attended and spoke at the benefit concert.

I was filled with gratitude on the night of the performance as musicians arrived from the Atlanta Chamber Players, Atlanta Opera, Atlanta Pipe Band, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Youth Orchestra, Choral Guild of Atlanta, Franklin Pond Chamber Music, Lakeside High School Music Department, and Shallowford choirs. The pews quickly filled with Shallowford members and people from all over the Atlanta area. There was even a local TV crew outside! The musicians sang and played with a tenderness and compassion that brought the audience to tears; I still get choked up each time I watch the performance on the church website. But what was most moving to me were the testimonies from two musicians with very personal and direct ties to the Ukraine war: Olga Schpitko, a Ukrainian-American violinist in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and Philip Greenberg, conductor for the National Orchestra of Ukraine in Kyiv.

Olga spoke with a palpable urgency for her home country...

"All of us leading our peaceful lives here in the United States," she said, "should realize that Ukrainians are fighting to protect all of us from sociopathic dictatorships everywhere, and because of that I humbly ask all of you to support Ukraine by demanding from our leaders that humanitarian and military aide to Ukraine is stepped up dramatically, as my beautiful Ukraine is running out of time."

Philip Greenberg reflected on his colleagues in the National Orchestra of Ukraine, who were broadcast all over the globe performing on the steps of Maiden Square in Kyiv, "They love their music, they love their country, they love their freedom. They literally would rather die than go back under Soviet domination." His voice broke as he spoke these words, knowing it was not hyperbole but the harsh reality.

When the performance was over, a woman and her elderly mother approached me. The woman had tears in her eyes, and the mother would glance at me kindly before looking down to wipe away her own. They are Ukrainian-born, I learned, the mother having fled Crimea when Russia first invaded the

area. With a thick Eastern European accent, the woman spoke about the incredible stress of not knowing if their family and friends back home were alive or dead, the pain of watching helplessly as their country was decimated. But, she remarked, coming to this concert and seeing the community come together to support and honor her country gave her some much-needed strength and hope.

We raised \$25,000 that very evening. A few days later, I received an email from a family friend who had attended the concert and wanted to let me know her family had made a matching donation. In total, the benefit concert raised over \$50,000 for the IRC and IRC Atlanta. I will forever remember this day and the lesson I learned about what can happen when a community comes together. I am so proud of my Shallowford family!

I think it's fitting to close with words from Justin Howell, Executive Director of the IRC Atlanta,

"You don't have to be the richest person in the world to serve; you don't have to be the leader of a country to serve. It can be things that come to you sitting at a breakfast table; it can be things that come to you watching TV that motivates you to move, to do the smallest things."

And I would like to add to that: with support from loving community, sometimes a small thing can become a big thing.

As long as people suffer worldwide, there is a need for support. Visit the International Rescue Committee's website ([help.persons.org](https://www.helppersons.org)) to learn more about how they support displaced people and to make a one-time or recurring donation.



Top: Professional musicians from all across Atlanta. Middle Left: Justin Howell, Executive Director of the IRC Atlanta. Middle Right: Members of the Atlanta Pipe Band. Middle: SPC Youth Choir singing *Hope Lingers On* by Andrea Ramsey. Bottom Left: Virginia Respress Fairchild (violin), Alejandra Sandoval (soprano) and Rolando Salazar (piano). Bottom Right: Philip Greenberg, conductor of the Kiev Philharmonic.



Decatur
Cooperative
Ministry



Submitted by Jimmy Shafe, SPC Mission Chair

Shallowford's Alternative Giving

Honoring Many with One Gift

Submitted by Debbie Adams, SPC Mission Committee Member

Tis' the season for gathering with family and friends, traditional holiday music concerts, and the clamoring need to find the perfect gift for others. For over twenty years, Shallowford has offered the Alternative Giving Market to empower members to give the gift of helping our neighbors in need. With the increase of online shopping and COVID creating a need for safe shopping opportunities, the SPC Alternative Giving program is now available on the church's website in addition to the church atrium.

In 2021, Shallowford's Alternative Gift Market raised \$20,480 for our ten mission partners! SPC's Mission partners received between ten and twenty gifts through the Market. Shallowford's 2021 Mission Committee budget was \$81,000, so the Alternative Giving Market enabled us to give 25% more direct cash assistance to our mission partners—over \$100,000!

This year, our Alternative Giving mission team will have a table set up in the upper Atrium on Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18, from 9:00 a.m.

until 10:45 a.m. We will have information on the ten missions supported through Shallowford, and you can make your selections by paying by check or cash. Don't forget to pick up a unique Christmas Gift Card with a space to write your gift recipient's name and mission of choice. Cards will be available at our table in the church atrium or by request through the website.



Throughout the year, online giving is available through the Shallowford website. Cash and check donations to any of our ten mission partners are accepted through the mail or dropped off at the church office during working hours.

Alternative Gifts express our gratitude for God's grace and move us to join with ministries that provide love and dignity, feed the hungry, offer shelter, and give comfort and hope for the future.

SHALLOWFORD.ORG/SHOP

Consider giving a gift to a loved one in the form of a dedicated donation to one of these ten missions.

We're Jumping In (Again)

NETWorks is taking a giant step forward. It's so big they are calling it "The Big Leap!" and Shallowford is a part of the story.

"Since March 2020, food insecurity and financial need in our area has continued at a significant level. You have provided 250,000 pounds of food per year and hundreds of thousands of dollars to your neighbors facing hardship. It's truly amazing. Because of your support, we are taking the next step for NETWorks."

-David Fisher, Executive Director of NETWorks

NETWorks will soon move from its current location to a larger space with a loading dock, storage space, and more offices. The changes will allow for more food and improve access times for neighbors, as well as increase work helping neighbors escape poverty permanently.

"The new space will house a grocery store-style pantry, where visitors can shop for themselves. With a new walk-in cooler/freezer, we will be able to increase the quantity of fresh foods. It's another way to respect the dignity of each person coming to shop with NETWorks!" says Fisher.

Why Shallowford & NETworks? NETWorks was established by several churches, including Shallowford, in 2004 to help meet food and financial needs in the greater Northlake/Embry Hills/Tucker Area. In 2021, NETworks provided 19,941 total "assists" including \$178,815 in emergency financial assistance to prevent eviction, keep utilities on, or help a family experiencing homelessness access shelter through a short-term motel stay. The organization distributed 242,004 pounds of food – providing at least 201,670 meals in our community. Think about those numbers. *Two-hundred thousand meals.* Now imagine those meals were not available, and the individuals, adults and children are hungry.

Hunger. Food insecurity. This is the story for one in every eight Georgians. They look just like you. Thirty percent of them are children. NETWorks' clients are too often faced with incredibly tough choices. Food or rent? Gas to get to work or keep the electricity and water on? Put a meal on the table or fill a prescription? These are choices no one should have to make.

Shallowford volunteers help staff the pantry, interact with neighbors needing food, interview individuals seeking financial assistance – these are ways you can help that go beyond the pocketbook. **Shallowford has committed \$35,000 from the "Mission Forward Fund" toward NETWorks' Big Leap campaign.** This fund was established as a part of the capital campaign to remodel the Shallowford sanctuary, and interest from the fund can be used for mission partners for one-time specific grants. In addition, Shallowford contributed \$15,000 from our mission budget to on-going operations of NETWorks.

Get Involved: NETWorks is always in need of volunteers. Contact member and NETWorks liaison, Nancy Phillimore at nphillimore@comcast.net.



David Fisher (far right) educated Shallowford members and staff, and friends of NETWorks during a tour of the newly purchased (not yet renovated) facility.

networkscoop.org/thebigleap



MEMORIAL
DRIVE
MINISTRIES
Diverse. Innovative. Transformative.



PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE



SHALOM
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY



Thornwell
BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES



COMMUNITY DRIVE-THRU EVENT

All Are Welcome



Submitted by Bobbie Pope & Vaughn Dunnigan

... Love Thy Neighbor ...

Members and Co-Directors of the Shallowford Food Pantry Bobbie Pope and Vaughn Dunnigan had dreamt of hosting a drive-through food assistance event for a while, but like all ideas, they knew it would be a significant lift.

"This summer, we got serious about the idea to help feed local families needing food assistance this Thanksgiving Holiday. Part of what drove us is the considerable increase in traffic the Food Pantry has experienced this year," said Vaughn. "We have served 50% more people than in recent years, bringing us back to pre-pandemic traffic levels."

Bobbie and Vaughn quickly announced the drive-through event to Shallowford's Mission Committee. The second course of action was meeting with Rev. Catherine E. Foster, Associate Pastor for Mission & Adult Discipleship, and brainstorming items in each box.

Bobbie shared, "It was important for us to provide ingredients/items for families to make a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We agreed that each box would include mashed potatoes, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, and ingredients for green bean casserole and gravy."

Later, the group met with Rebecca Porter, Shallowford's Director of Communications, to share ideas and brainstorm ways to invite local food pantries and neighbors to participate.

"With the help of Food Pantry volunteers and members of Shallowford Presbyterian Women (SPW), we purchased 200 of each item, plus 100 turkeys. This involved daily shopping trips, sometimes to more than one store a day. If we purchased all the stuffing at one Aldi location, we knew we were headed to the next Aldi!"

In mid-October, Vaughn and Bobbie met with Catherine one last time to discuss the day of event logistics. During that meeting, any skepticism that may have been present began to subside. It wasn't until late October when a crew of SPW members helped Bobbie and Vaughn move all food items into the Youth Center that the skepticism dissipated. The two leaders were moved to tears. This event was coming to life in the most beautiful ways.

The following week, 60 of Shallowford's 6th through 12th graders taped and filled boxes with all 2,200 items. Included in each box was a card from a student from Shallowford's Children's Ministry and the Shallowford School. Rumor has it that the packing was very exuberant.

"A heartfelt thank you to the staff at Publix at Shallowford Exchange. They ordered and sold us



Shallowford volunteers of all ages came out to help.



Bobbie Pope and Vaughn Dunnigan, Food Pantry Directors



All 200 Thanksgiving Dinner-In-A-Box packages.

100 turkeys at a discounted price and let us keep them in their freezers until the big day. They even helped load our trucks when we picked them up," expressed Vaughn.

More than 50 Shallowford volunteers came out to support the event. They moved boxes and turkeys, set out traffic cones, and did whatever else was needed.

"The first neighbor to arrive was in our parking lot by 7:30 a.m. We also noticed two women in line who had walked to the church, one carrying a baby and the other pulling a wagon. We quickly pulled them out of the line and served them first."

Many cars in line represented two to three families. By morning's end, we had served 86 local neighbors and their families a Thanksgiving dinner-in-a-box, plus a turkey.

"The planning and work that went into this event was intense. We could never have done it without the help of so many, for which we are very grateful. We look forward to this being our first drive-through, not our last!"



About the Food Pantry

Shallowford's Food Pantry provides temporary or emergency food assistance, including groceries, for over 400 families per year and distributes more than 15,000 pounds of food per year. The pantry is open every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

shallowford.org/food-pantry



Storytelling Captivates and Connects Because of God

Submitted by Margaret Jones

Shallowford's special midweek series in October followed the 2022 stewardship theme, "Because of God."

Each week after Pastor Anna's opening inspiration, two members shared stories about the impact of faith in their lives. The intimate setting provided a welcoming and safe space for members to open their hearts and speak about meaningful, life-changing events.

"I was deeply inspired by the powerful personal stories told by my Shallowford friends about God's extraordinary role in their lives," said Wayne Anderson.

"Because of God: *We are Free*" opened the four-week series with **Mary Ellen Pendergrast** and **Bob Smithers** telling their stories. Each of them talked about how life is different because of their faith.

"As I heard the personal stories of faith and endurance, I saw the speakers with new eyes as they spoke," said Lyn Turknett. "Stories seem to me to make the love of God real."

In week two, "Because of God: *We Serve*," gave **Nancy Phillimore** and **Wayne Anderson** the opportunity to tell how God called each of them to live their faith through service.

Reflecting on "Because of God: *We Receive*," **Cathy Crawford** and **Mike Tomasovich** shared stories of receiving the care and love of their community. They acknowledged that it can be difficult for many of us to ask for or accept help. "Because of God: *We Give*," challenged **Margaret Jones** and **Dwight Blinson** to reflect on how we are called to practice our faith by giving.

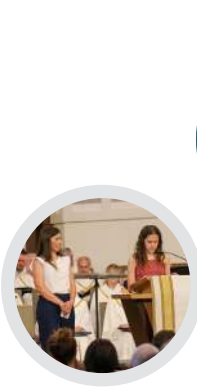


"When asked to share, I found myself reminiscing about the beginnings of my faith journey in a small church surrounded by family, teachers, and mentors who taught me that giving is a part of worship," said Margaret.

"I really thought I knew all of my friend Margaret's stories," said Betsy Smith. "Then she talked about her mom's faith and courage during a family crisis and how that had impacted and inspired her."

"We sit next to, across from, or view people in our church activities, but we rarely get to hear their stories," said Cynthia Thompson. "I appreciate the opportunity to listen and be present with people on a deeper level - a wonderful way to build connections and strengthen our ties."

SPECIAL MIDWEEK SERIES
Throughout the year Shallowford offers one-off midweek series relevant to the season. To learn more about specific in-person series, visit shallowford.org/connect.



LILLIAN, CARTER, RACHEL, & TAIT ROBB



We Joined Shallowford One Year Ago.

Here are 5 Things that We Learned

Rachel Robb tells her family's experience in joining Shallowford

One year ago, my family was looking for a new church home and Shallowford Presbyterian was recommended to us by a friend. We were looking for a church that had opportunities for everyone in our family to engage. Our preteen children were the right age for confirmation class, youth group, and choir. And my husband and I were looking for a church that would allow us to grow spiritually, serve, and connect with others.

Our timing was perfect because the "Discovering Shallowford" classes were just starting. We met for two Sundays before church with Pastor Anna and the other clergy and learned about all the different ways to connect at Shallowford.

In the "Discovering Shallowford" classes, we learned about Shallowford's mission and vision. We also learned about all of the ways that our family could engage and serve including Sunday School classes, small groups, men's groups, youth group meetings, choir and handbells, and opportunities for service. It was the perfect opportunity to ask questions and make sure that Shallowford was the right fit for our family.

We joined the church after our second Discovering Shallowford class and we haven't looked back. Here's what we have learned during our first year at Shallowford:

1. **There are many different ways to engage at Shallowford.** Whatever your interests or talents, Shallowford has a place for you. Even one year after we joined, we are still finding new ways to participate and serve.
2. **Shallowford prioritizes their children and youth and involves them in all aspects of the church.** In

the past year, my children have participated in the worship service, volunteered at Bible school, packed donated food into boxes, sung in the choir to raise money for Ukraine, rung bells, and welcomed other children into the youth group.

3. **Music is a big deal at Shallowford.** We are fortunate to have incredibly talented musicians and teachers at this church. Every week we are blessed with incredible singing and musicianship, from our youngest members, to our youth and adult choir, our handbells, and talented instrumentalists. You will be inspired musically at Shallowford.
4. **Shallowford members know how to eat.** When we gather for meals, the food is always delicious, plentiful, and a great way for us to socialize and get to know each other better. The annual Pigs on Fire event is amazing and we never run out of donuts.
5. **The best part of Shallowford is the people.** We feel so fortunate for the friends we have made already. And we meet new people all the time. Shallowford is a welcoming place.

If you are interested in learning more about Shallowford Presbyterian Church, "Discovering Shallowford" classes are a great place to start. They are held three times per year and provide an opportunity to learn about Shallowford's mission and vision. The class meets on two consecutive Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the next class starts in March 2023.

You can learn more about how to join Shallowford Presbyterian at shallowford.org/about.



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Shallowford Presbyterian Church

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Atlanta, Georgia 30345

404-321-1844 | info@shallowford.org | shallowford.org

Sunday Morning Worship

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

Sunday School Hour

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.



FACEBOOK

@shallowfordpresbyterianchurch



INSTAGRAM

@shallowfordpc



SOUNDCLOUD

@shallowfordpc



VIMEO

/shallowfordpc

COMING UP AT SHALLOWFORD



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE

7:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

WORSHIP AS ONE

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1

11:00 AM, SANCTUARY (NO EARLY SERVICE OR
SUNDAY SCHOOL)

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAYS, JANUARY 9 THROUGH APRIL 3

7:00-8:30 PM VIA ZOOM

MONTHLY GRATEFULNESS GATHERINGS

4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8:00 PM TO 9:00 PM VIA ZOOM

DISCOVERING SHALLOWFORD:

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

SUNDAYS, MARCH 5 & 12

SUNDAYS, JUNE 4 & 11

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

12:00 PM WORSHIP, CHAPEL

7:00 PM WORSHIP, SANCTUARY

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

12:00 PM WORSHIP, CHAPEL

7:00 PM WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

12:00 PM WORSHIP, CHAPEL

7:00 PM WORSHIP, SANCTUARY

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

10:00 AM, GREAT HALL

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

7:15 AM SUNRISE SERVICE, BALLFIELD

8:30 AM EARLY WORSHIP, CHAPEL

9:15-10:30 AM BREAKFAST BUFFET, GREAT HALL

11:00 AM WORSHIP, SANCTUARY

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 30

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, JUNE 19 THROUGH JUNE 23

9:00 AM TO NOON

VISIT SHALLOWFORD.ORG