

SACRED SPACE

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ON THE COVER

Meredith Moseley, Head of Shallowford Presbyterian School, Rev. Anna George Traynham, Senior Pastor of Shallowford Presbyterian Church, and two middle school students pose in front of a custom made quilt donated to the church. This quilt is on display in the lower atrium, right outside the sanctuary.



SHALLOWFORD SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE

EXPANSION



At Shallowford Presbyterian School our mission is to nurture the whole child by accepting uniqueness and developing an academic, spiritual, and social foundation. This means that we are dedicated to meeting each child where they are and creating a plan to ensure that they meet their full potential. We strive to create a diverse and rich environment where every child is

supported and encouraged not only academically, but also socially, emotionally and spiritually. Our goal is to provide an affordable, Christian education with low student/teacher ratios and a challenging curriculum.

At SPS we believe that all children grow and develop at different rates through varied learning styles. Because we offer small class sizes and low student/teacher ratios, we are able to provide an

ideal environment for almost every student, even those who may not thrive in a traditional classroom. We have a number of students with various learning differences. Our flexible structure allows us to provide support for each student, whether that entails a wiggle seat, additional time for testing, individualized tutoring, or brain breaks. SPS is awarded thousands of dollars each year in

state funds because we are able to service many students with special needs whose needs are not met in public schools.

If you enter any of our classrooms, you will see collaboration, one-on-one instruction, kids cuddled up with a book, and maybe even a yoga mindful break. Each class has at least one 30-minute recess each day, offering students a time to engage with their peers cultivating social and problem-solving skills.

We are extremely fortunate to belong to a community of families who are invested in our mission. From volunteering in the classroom to participating in school-wide events, you will often see family members in the school. Since our mission is to nurture the whole child, we feel that it is important to cultivate relationships with all of our SPS families.

Through our counseling program we are able to offer guidance to families as they tackle big and small issues.

Our tuition assistance program allows us to provide financial support to

families who could not otherwise afford SPS.

By offering both a preschool and a kindergarten through 8th grade (K-8) school, SPS students are guided, nurtured, and encouraged through their formative years as they learn habits and traits that will be carried throughout their lives. By developing a preschool through 8th grade model students are able to develop leadership skills and build positive relationships with their peers and educators. Children are given the opportunity to explore, create, and problem solve with materials that are developmentally appropriate. Classes engage weekly in Special classes such as Library, Art, Spanish, Christian Education, and Physical Education.

Our preschool classes' activities are based on a play and task-learning atmosphere where children are taught basic concepts through the use of games, puzzles, manipulatives, art, and other hands-on experiences.

The entire school features religious components as part of its core mission, including monthly chapel, lunchtime blessing, and religious holiday celebrations. Students in K-8 experience religious and moral edu-

cation in a weekly Christian Education class.

The K-8 school offers a balanced curriculum that encourages exploration and discovery. Our English and Language Arts program focuses on literacy, phonics, and readers and writers workshops. Our Math program helps students develop powerful, life-long habits such as perseverance, creative thinking and reasoning. In Science and Social Studies, students learn about the world around them and their impact on their community as well as developing critical thinking and questioning skills.

One of the most valuable things to our SPS family is the relationship with SPC. As a church school our students have the opportunity to partner with the church and be part of many mission opportunities.

Our students work monthly in the SPC food pantry, they learn about Haiti and raise money for the La Gonave Haiti Partnership, collect for the Souper Bowl, work with LaAmistad, and participate in many other SPC activities.

Shallowford Presbyterian School is committed to fostering personal con-



nections and relationships that build character and confidence. Our faculty, staff, and administrators are dedicated to equipping each student with tools to create lives of meaning, purpose, and positive contributions to society. Because our community is small our students form valuable relationships with other students, parents, teachers, and our church community. These skills give our students confidence and the ability to succeed as they move on from SPS.

WHEN OUR Giving BECOMES Receiving

A LETTER TO THE SHALLOWFORD



The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber, but joyful, not fanatical but liberating. When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers." There's so much to see in Henri Nouwen's words on living a compassionate life that I almost missed it.

Did you see it? Those four words slipped right in the middle -- "...our giving becomes receiving..." Is he just being clever with some word play, or is there something to his antonymous rendering where he succinctly describes this reciprocal return on our investment "when gratitude is the source of our actions."

A vital aspect of stewardship is our giving to Christ's work in the world. Through the generosity of the Shallowford congregation's stewardship, the list of "those to whom we minister" spans several significant ministries throughout the world. Habitat, LaAmistad, La Gonave, Food pantry, Youth Mission trip, and many others. The same can be said about serving our church --- teaching Sunday School, singing in a choir, serving meals, prayer network, prayer shawls, and many others.

So, I have a question for you. Do you give to Christ's work in the world because you are compelled to do so or free to do so? If you're like me, you've experienced that actions born out of compulsion tend to come with some sort of coercive strings attached whereas actions freely given yield a liberating effect, often bearing out gratitude beyond measure. I've spoken with Shallowford members as I'm sure you have and there's a constant, reliable refrain spoken as a result of one's ministry contribution --- "I got more out of this than I put into it" or as Nouwen aptly says it "our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers."

Through Shallowford 365, along with regular financial updates, you'll hear testimonials throughout the year about the difference your gifts and pledges make in our community and how our giving becomes receiving.

I find myself filled with gratitude, Shallowford, for how you freely give to myriad ministries that embody Christ's work in the world. Your intentional and purposeful contributions of time, money, and ability express a faithful way of life that promotes gratitude, nurtures sharing, and simply put, embodies Shallowford 365. Such amazing grace.

Terry O'Toole
Stewardship Committee Co-Chair





WALKING IN GOD'S LIGHT

WHOEVER WELCOMES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME WELCOMES ME. - MATTHEW 18

Submitted by Nell Herring

"Our Father, who art in Heaven..." resounded within the walls of the third floor classrooms during Sunday School hour on Sunday, February 23, 2020. Children from age three through fifth grade joined together praying in preparation for the 11:00 a.m. service.

As the bells chimed at the top of the hour, the congregation welcomed some of our youngest disciples into worship leadership. Not a single adult voice was heard over the sound system as our children facilitated every element of the service. From the Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession, to the Prayers of the People and the superbly crafted creed, our children composed and lead each liturgical element.

Through harmonious melodies and moving lyrics, the children also shared their musical gifts. Selections included an opening voluntary played by Aubrey Reimer, handbell selections by the Westminster Jr. and Sr. Bells, a lively processional featuring percussion instruments, and a sprite rendition of "Shine, Shine your Light" by our children's choirs.



Preachers **Mary Jury, Walker Linsley, Bryson Evans, and Camille Bass** challenged the congregation to walk in God's

light. Through imagery of dystopian fiction, tales of scout camp, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, and the Simpsons Movie, our young preachers helped the congregation connect with the story of the Transfiguration as depicted in Matthew's gospel.

Festivities concluded with a silly-string finale outside for the boys of the choir who brought the most non-perishable items for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive to support the SPC Food Pantry. Joyful squeals abounded as silly string flew through the air covering Mr. Grant, Ms. Mary Ann, and Ms. Anne.

What a testament Children's Sunday was to the ways in which the Holy Spirit is at work within the Children's Ministries at Shal-

lowford. Thanks be to God for the gifts of these young leaders!





COME TO THE TABLE

Submitted by Scott McGough

The love of Jesus is shown through the sacrament of Holy Communion. And it is at those moments of Communion that we receive the spiritual flesh and blood of Christ. To partake means Christ lives in us and us in him. We also know that we must take Holy Communion since only with the life of Christ in us, we have eternal life and will resurrect on the last day. It is no different for those of us at Shallowford that receive Holy Communion within our Sanctuary versus those who receive Holy Communion in their home. We all are in need of this cherished sacrament. To make sure this

sacramental need is met, Mary Ellen Pendergrast for the past few years has been organizing a small group of Shallowford volunteers - both former and current Elders - to ensure that Christ's love moves beyond our church boundaries. Whether a Shallowford member lives as far away as Dahlonga or anywhere in between does not deter Mary Ellen's efforts to select volunteer pairings to perform Communion.



It is really quite an organized effort. The volunteers use specially designed communion kits. These portable kits provide the tradition of accepting the body and blood of Christ, while adapting to a variety of circumstances. I've been assisting with some home communions and have come to appreciate that the kits are perfect for hospital visits, nursing homes and home bound ministries.

There has never been a visit that I was not astounded of the reverent and humble attitude that flows from each of our home parishioners as we enter their residence, make joyful conversation and prepare our Lord's Table. We all are in awe and wonder as we receive Christ, like the wonder of a small child experiencing their first Christmas morning. I'm reminded that we all should look back to the cross and remember what Christ accomplished for us. We should be reminded of His great and unconditional love for us.

My prayerful hope is that the communion bread and cup would provide all our parishioners with a constant opportunity to remember all that Christ did for us and renew our commitment to obey and honor Him.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE TABLE!



GETTING OUTSIDE THE BOX:

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH RETREAT, MISSION, & JUSTICE MINISTRIES



In January, Shallowford members Kay and Brad Bryant had the privilege of attending the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE) conference in Little Rock, Arkansas where Rev. Catherine Foster co-led and directed every aspect of the event from start to finish.

In addition to Kay and Brad, ten Shallowford members also made the trip to Little Rock for education focused around discipleship through retreat, mission and justice Ministries. Together, Shallowford's crew leaned into the conference theme, "Getting Outside the Box" making their time meaningful and worthwhile.

"Never attending a conference like this, I had no expectations of what these couple of days would be like. It was a meaningful time for me and I think the other attendees would agree.

Each day of the conference attendees were given time for worship and a time for breakout sessions of various subjects to help build stronger Christian Education experiences for our denomination. Team Shally split up into different classes with the goal to reconvene and share what was learned. One class in particular titled, "Let's Have Dinner and Talk about Death", welcomed the idea of small group conversation over a meal to talk about all aspects on this difficult subject. The group covered the full range of decisions that can help you be better prepared when that time comes.

There were also several "field trips" away from the conference site including a private evening at the Clinton Presidential Library where participants were given the opportunity to mingle with other Christian leaders, and purchase literature and gift items. Kay and Brad ran into old friends, made new friends and were able to yell "Go Blue Hose" to a few Presbyterian College friends.



"One of the best parts of the conference was to see Catherine use her God-given talents to keep everything running smoothly. It made me proud to see how highly she is thought of among the leadership of these Christian educators. It was no easy task to coordinate such a large event and she did it with such ease. Thank you, Catherine!"

- Kay Bryant

It was by no mistake that Shallowford had the largest group from one church in attendance. The Shally Team included Christian educators Prue Swerlick, Brad and Kay Bryant, Cathy Palmer, Mary Ann Rutkowski, Jocelyn Wildhack, Bradley Kibler, Anne Sophie-Hankla, and Grant Wright.

