



The Response

Monthly Newsletter of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
June, 2017



From the desk of Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Dear friends,

What a joy to be here to share in ministry with you! The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of welcome and introductions. You have done so much to help me and my family feel at home: you have introduced yourselves, worn name tags, shown us around, brought flowers and bagels and cards, shared meals with us, and shared stories about the church and your families. Thank you for your extraordinary hospitality! We are deeply grateful.

As I get to know this congregation and its history, I am so impressed by the rich tradition of discipleship in this place. In Sunday School classes, small groups and Bible studies, so many of you are committed to continuing to learn and grow in your faith. Through fellowship meals and outings, prayers and visits and calls, you show your care for one another. And through giving and hands-on service, you reach out into the world to serve the least of these -- those who are hungry, those who need shelter, those who need community and support as they build a new life after abuse or addiction. It is clear that our mission statement -- **to build, bond and go beyond** -- is not just talk here. These are deep commitments that shine forth in your life together.

I am honored and excited to join you as we seek to build upon this tradition and discover God's call for us in this particular time and place. I look forward to the journey with you, and with those who will join us who we have not yet met.

Grace and peace,
Leanne



Pentecost Offering ~ Sunday, June 4

On Sunday, June 4, we will receive the Pentecost Offering. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and support the church's ministry of faith formation in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Our congregation will retain 40 percent to be shared equally between Greater Birmingham Ministries and the Presbyterian Home for Children to support their ministries with children in need. The remaining 60 percent will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support national initiatives of our denomination focused on helping children, youth, and young adults develop their life of faith through supportive communities, caring mentors, and faith-related nurture and service. The Pentecost Offering makes a difference for the life of the whole church and for congregations like ours. Please give generously.

*The Session of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
and
The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
cordially invite you to join
in the joyful celebration of
the Installation of*

*Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed
as Pastor of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, June 11, 2017
4:00 p.m.*

Reception following in the Fellowship Hall



We've had a great year of book reading and study together. Please consider joining us when the Wednesday night programs start again in September. We will not be meeting in June, July or August. Below you will see a listing of the books we are planning to use for our meetings in the next school year. See you then!

September - A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
October - Letters From Skye by Jessica Brockmole
Nov. - The Mad Woman Upstairs by Catherine Lowell
December - no meeting
January - Anything is Possible by Elizabeth Stroudt
February & March - Lent (no meetings)
April - The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman
May - Into the Water by Paula Hawkins

SVPC Foundation Educational Grants

The Shades Valley Foundation is currently accepting applications for modest educational grants to assist students with the cost of attending colleges, universities, and vocational/ technical schools in the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Applicants must be SVPC members or supported by an active member of the church or staff. They must be a student in good standing enrolled in an accredited institution or be a high school senior who has been accepted at an accredited college or school.

Application forms are available in the church office and will be considered at the June 14th meeting of the Foundation Board of Trustees.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
DINNER WILL
NOT BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31
(during the week of Memorial Day).**

**NEW THIS SUMMER!!!!
DINNER & PROGRAMS
WILL BE HELD DURING
THE MONTH OF JUNE.**

**WE'LL SKIP NEXT WEEK
(May 31) but will resume
on Wednesday, June 7 at
the regular time of 5:45
for dinner followed by the
program at 6:30.**

JUNE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

June 7 - BINGO! PRIZES!!



**June 14 - Glory to God: A Family
Album for the People of God**

June 21 - Glory to God Hymn Sing

June 28 - Fourth of July

Celebration





ROAD TRIP!

SVPC travelers are planning a day trip on Friday, June 9 to the Museum of Natural History in Anniston, Alabama (admission \$6) followed by a Dutch-treat lunch at Classic on Noble. We will leave from the SVPC parking lot at 8:45 a.m. The museum opens at 10:00 a.m. and our lunch reservation is at 12:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the Fellowship Hall. Please add your name by Sunday, June 4, and let us know if you would consider driving or would need transportation.

It's Time to Clean House!

You may have noticed all the sprucing up around the church. Thank you to everyone who has taken time out of your busy schedule to help us!! The work day was a big success and we greatly appreciate all the hard work!

Please remember when you are doing your own personal Spring cleaning that the Presbyterian Home for Children accepts donations on the first Saturday of each month in the basement of the SVPC HUT. If you have large items you can call them to schedule a pick up after discussing the specifics.

Our SVPC library accepts donations of hard-back books only that are in gently used condition.

SVPC Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, church activities at SVPC will follow the Jefferson County school schedule for closing and cancellations. Example: If Jefferson County schools cancel evening activities or close during the work week, we will observe that same schedule as a safety precaution for our members and staff. Sunday closings will be on an as-needed basis and communication will be spread as quickly as possible.

SVPC Members and Friends ... Let's Go Out to a Ballgame!

On **Friday, June 16, 2017**, there will be a church-wide outing to a Birmingham Barons Baseball Game. The Barons' office tell us that tickets are going fast. Your payment is your RSVP. **We need your RSVP/payment no later than Monday, June 5.** Make your check (\$7.00 per ticket) payable to SVPC with a notation "Barons' Game" and give them to Lana in the church office. An envelope will be available for drop off. We'll start distributing tickets on Wednesday, June 7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



JUNE

June 2—Jack Cole
June 4—Tommy Prewitt
June 5—Margaret Strickland, Elaine Peavy
June 6—Amanda Gibson
June 7—Sarah Heckert, Jerry Smith,
Jennings Marshall
June 10—Fred Brown, Cindy Prewitt, Joyce Trigg
June 16—Susan Richardson
June 18—Ree McIntosh, Candy Bird
June 20—Terry Newland
June 24—June Eagan
June 25—Meredith Riggs, Lee Ann Thompson
June 26—Fletcher Harvey
June 30—Jim Archibald, Jr., Tammy Meacham

JUNE Wednesday Night Dinner/ Programs

Wednesday, June 7 – Dinner: Build your own sandwich (Gourmet breads; meats – Roast Beef, Ham, Turkey, Pastrami), Cheese (Cheddar, Provolone, Swiss & Pepper Jack), Lettuce, Tomatoes, Pickles, Purple Onion, Mustards/Mayo, Chips, Dessert. Program: Bingo!

Wednesday, June 14 – Dinner: Mexican Lasagna, Chips, Salsa, Dessert. Program: *Glory to God: A Family Album for the People of God*

Wednesday, June 21 – Dinner: Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Seasoned Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Dessert. Program: *Glory to God Hymn Sing*

Wednesday, June 28 – Dinner: Loaded Baked Potato, Seasonal Fruit, Dessert. Program: Independence Day Celebration!

MONTHLY DONATIONS COLLECTED EVERY MONTH FOR Presbyterian Home for Children Thrift Store at SVPC

The next collection date is Saturday, June 3.

Bring your usable discards and gently used clothing to the Presbyterian Home for Children's reception center in the rear parking lot, below the playground, of SVPC. Volunteers will be on hand to unload your vehicle and to give you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. The Center will be open from 8 am to 12 noon.

Installation

On Sunday, June 11 at 4pm, we celebrate the installation of the Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed as Pastor of our congregation. Please join us for this special service of worship and the reception in the fellowship hall following.



Leanne has invited the Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton to preach for the service. Kim and Leanne are both members of the Moveable Feast, an annual preaching group that includes PC(USA) pastors from across the country. As Director of Contextual Education at Columbia Theological Seminary, Kim is interested in ministry in congregations, nonprofits, advocacy groups, and other places

where public theology shapes and forms people for discipleship and leadership. She is passionate about forming reflective leaders and encouraging intercultural, interfaith exchanges. She enjoys connecting students and faculty with individuals and communities who are making a difference for the common good. A writer, preacher, and teacher, her recent publications include works of liturgy, marriage rites, the pedagogy of theological reflection for ministry, and sermons.

Notes from the Session Meeting on 5/21/17

Rev. Reed opened the meeting with a devotional and then emphasized that she wants the Session members to be spiritual leaders of the church and not so much a board of directors. We will have devotionals and worship at all future Session meetings.

She also reported all of the familiarization activities and meetings that she participated in this month and spent a few minutes relating how she hopes that we will abide by the four S's --- No Secrets, No Surprises, No Subversion, and Lots of Support. (See the article included in this Response for more detailed information)

We had written reports from all Ministry Units and the Session took the following actions:

We approved continuing Wednesday night dinners during June (and we will evaluate resuming Wednesday night dinners in August instead of in September). This idea was initiated by Bond,

(continued next column)

Session Meeting Notes continued ...

supported by Administration, and Finance will revise the budget accordingly for re-approval.

We authorized Worship and Arts to conduct a campaign to raise funds and purchase new (red) *Glory to God* hymnals by August 1.

Elaine Peavy and Cindy Tarrant also advertised these upcoming activities for Bond/Fellowship/Care and Share: Memorial Day Weekend --- SVPC campers at Gulf State Park; June 9 --- group outing to tour the Museum of Natural History in Anniston followed by lunch at Classic on Main; June 11 --- reception for Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed following her installation at SVPC; June 16 --- group outing to a Birmingham Barons baseball game at Regions Field.

Joe Rives submitted an extensive summary of the outreach activities of the Go Beyond Ministry Unit, including both budgeted and non-budgeted activities.

Dot Riley's report for the Administration Team highlighted efforts to bring the Administrative Handbook up to date and modifications to the employee evaluation process.

Ray McIntosh reported for Finance that, even though the Session has approved a modest deficit budget for 2017, we are well ahead of budget through April in both giving and expenses for this year and are well ahead of the same period last year (see the financial summary elsewhere in the Response).

Dr. John Eagan reported that much work was done at the May 6th work day. He also said that the work on updating the interior of the elevator is underway and that the side driveway will be locked except for Sunday mornings through Sunday afternoon.

Laura McDonald reported for Discipleship that they are working on a child protection policy and plans for re-decorating the nursery area.

COMING SOON!

New hymnals!!

Information will be

going out soon with

details and a special

opportunity to purchase one or

more in honor or memory of a

loved one. Watch for details!



Bill Carl, a Presbyterian pastor and former president of Pittsburgh Seminary, wrote a chapter in the book "Best Advice: Wisdom on Ministry from 30 Leader Pastors and Preachers." Carl wrote about the culture within a church and our attitude towards conflict. Conflict is inevitable in any church. He writes: "Wherever two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ, there's bound to be an argument!" So avoiding conflict avoids a reality that exists; and this is not only unhelpful, but can be detrimental to all parties involved.

Carl's approach not only welcomes dialogue, but encourages better ways for us to live together in the midst of conflict and create healthier communities as a result. The formula that he has developed over the duration of his ministry is surprisingly simple: **"the four S's"** – no Secrets, no Surprises, no Subversion and lots of Support.

In the wake of waters in which we find ourselves wading, I think we could all use this simple reminder. So today I simply offer you my reflections as I re-read his approach.

No secrets. The goal is to get people talking to each other instead of about each other. Gossip never helps; gossip only hurts. And secrets within a group can easily lead to confusion, distrust and pain. Transparency is key for this to work. Secrets can breed distrust very quickly within a community.

No surprises. Ideas (whether good or bad) can create tension within a group when they catch people off guard. We have all felt uneasy when experiencing pressure to agree with something or someone before we were ready. Encourage people to do their groundwork, speak with all parties involved prior to a vote or an event and then propose ideas in a planned way. Give people time to get on board with an idea before they are forced to react to it.

No subversion. After a tense debate and a difficult vote, you will occasionally find yourself in the minority. And rather than following the appropriate avenues of appeal or filing a motion to reconsider, you may simply want to retreat to the parking lot to gripe or complain. Consoling is one thing, but attempting to poison the idea after it has been decided is another. Watch out for parking lot conversations and the motivations behind them.

Lots of support. We all need affirmation. We all need encouragement. We know we are not supposed to tear down our brothers and sisters, but we also need to remember that we are supposed to intentionally build up the body of Christ. How are you showing support to those around you in your ministry?

Carl proposes (and I agree) that if enough of us adopted and began teaching the basics of this method, we could not only change our overarching attitude towards conflict, but also the culture of Christianity. What do you think of "the four S's"?

BRIAN CHRISTOPHER COULTER is pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Aiken, South Carolina. He is a husband, father, pastor, author, blogger and pingpong champion who is pretty good at sidewalk chalk.

PENTECOST CAMPAIGN

Alleviate Hunter in Central Alabama

June 4 - July 16, 2017

Why have a Pentecost CANpaign? This time of year, the cupboards are bare at food pantries across the state.

What can we do? Even though we collect non-perishables throughout the year, we will make a stronger effort during these summer weeks to do a little more. non-perishable food items and canned goods will be taken to Greater Birmingham Ministries to help those in need in our local communities.



Bring your donations to the Fellowship Hall anytime or drop them in the basket in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
Summary of Income and Expenses YTD Through April, 2017

Income	April YTD 2,017	Budget YTD 2,017	April YTD 2,016
General Offerings			
General Offerings	197,024	131,752	147,747
Interest Revenue	14	25	54
Miscellaneous Revenue	0	383	60
Total Income	197,038	132,160	147,861
Expenses			
Personnel	74,705	77,116	112,367
Operating Expenses	36,026	52,442	39,526
Build, Bond, & Go Beyond	6,667	12,023	2,929
Session & Misc. & Pulp. Nom. Comm.	198	33	0
Total Expenses	117,596	141,615	154,822
Net Total	79,442	(9,455)	(6,961)

NOTE: The Session approved a modest deficit budget at the Session meeting on March 19, 2017 and will work to balance it by the end of the year. However, so far we have a healthy surplus because of increased early giving.

Finance Committee: Anne Doty (Co-Chair), Ray McIntosh (Co-Chair), Jim O'Connor, Mary Wyatt Bowers, John Childers (Treasurer), and Henry McPherson

A complete 2017 budget is available in the church office.

Living River
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA
2017 Summer Camps
Branching Out



- Family Friendly Schedule (Multiple ages each week allow family to send all children to camp at the same time. Different ages housed separately.
- Family Friendly Prices! Competitive prices, Presbytery Scholarships, Tiered Pricing, Monthly payment plans if you register early enough.
- Check out the Summer Camp video on the website: www.livingriver.org under Summer Camp.
- Spiritual growth in reformed tradition – camps led by Executive Director, a teaching elder; by counselors and by weekly volunteers from the presbytery. Curriculum is denominational.
This summer's theme is "Branching Out."
- Encourage your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., to participate!
They'll have a great summer experience and make new friends.

For more information, call the church office (871-7309).
Weekly camp schedules are available outside of the Fellowship Hall.
Registration forms available in the church office or call and we'll mail to you.

June 2017

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	5 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg	6 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support	7 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program Games and PRIZES! 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	8 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 5:00 p.m.—Firehouse Shelter Meeting, F. Hall	9 Bday: Jack Cole	10
Bday: Tommy Prewitt	Bday: Margaret Strickland, Elaine Peavy	Bday: Amanda Gibson	Bday: Sarah Heckert, Jerry Smith, Jennings Marshall			Bday: Fred Brown, Cindy Prewitt, Joyce Trigg	
11	8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 4:00 p.m.—Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed Installation Service & Reception	12 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg	13 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study	14 4:30 p.m.—Foundation Mtg. 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	15	16 Bday: Susan Richardson	17
18	8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School 12:15 p.m.—Session Meeting Bday: Ree McIntosh, Candy Bird	19 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg	20 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:00 a.m.—Grief Support Bday: Terry Newland	21 9 a.m.—Aces & Birdies 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	22	23	24 Bday: June Eagan
25	8:30 & 11 a.m.—Worship Svcs. 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School	26 6:00 pm.—Spirituality Mtg	27 10:00 a.m.—Bible Study	28 5:45 p.m.—Dinner/Program Independence Day Celebration 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir	29	30 7 a.m.—Men's Breakfast and Bible Study Bday: Jim Archibald, Jr., Tammy Meacham	

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church

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Church Web Page: www.svpcusa.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The deadline to submit articles for the June issue of the Response is Thursday, June 22 at 9 a.m. Articles received after the deadline will be held for the next newsletter or used in our weekly congregational emails.

OUR VISION

*Shades Valley Presbyterian Church exists through God's love to
BUILD a strong spiritual foundation,
BOND together in Christian fellowship,
GO BEYOND our walls to serve in Mission and bear Witness
to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ..*

THE SESSION

Class of 2017: Courtney Brown, Anne Doty, Jim Gray, Mark Nelson, Cindy Tarrant • Trustee: Ed Parrish
Class of 2018: Martha Ann Cooper, John Eagan, Jim Isaminger, Elaine Peavy, Jennifer Riggs • Trustee: Lydia Wilfong
Class of 2019: Mary Wyatt Bowers, Laura McDonald, Ray McIntosh, Dot Riley, Joe Rives • Trustee: Augusta Forbes

Armed Services: Lt. J.G. Erin Bischoff, Lt. Col. J.B. Marshall
Mission Co-Workers in Congo: Bob and Kristi Rice; John and Gwenda Fletcher

