

McAllister Messenger

June 21, 2020

Spiritual Lessons from Gardening

This spring, I planted a garden in the backyard. Nothing fancy – just a few tomato and cucumber plants. Nonetheless, I have been reminded that gardening and the life of faith have a lot of common. The lessons learned from planting and maintaining a garden are lessons that we can carryover to our spiritual lives. Here are a few:

- 1) **It takes patience.** A garden does not grow and produce overnight. Its flourishing is not measured in days or even weeks. Instead, it takes a few months for the harvesting to begin. Our spiritual lives are the same. We don't grow into mature Christians overnight. The process is measured in years, or even decades. The life of faith requires a lot of patience and perseverance.
- 2) **You have to get your hands dirty.** In order to plant a garden, one has to be willing to dig their hands into the dirt. I know I've had a good day of gardening when I can see the dirt under my fingernails. The same is true of the life of faith. We have to be willing to dig in and get involved, not just sit back and watch things grow without our work.
- 3) **It requires both rain and sun.** A garden won't grow if it doesn't get enough sunlight or enough rain. It requires both. In the same way, we won't mature in our spiritual lives if we don't see both a little sun and a little rain. We need both good times and bad times to grow. We need both blessing and challenges to become the person God wants us to become.
- 4) **The harvest is worth the effort.** Nothing tastes better than homegrown produce. The fruits of our labor are definitely worth it, both in gardening and in faith. In fact, I can't think of anything more satisfying than enjoying a delicious tomato or cucumber (or whatever it is you might grow) plucked straight from the garden. The life of faith tastes just as sweet when God blesses us through our labors.

There are many more similarities that emerge between gardening and our spiritual lives. I'd love to hear some of the ones you have discovered. Happy gardening and many blessings for your life of faith!



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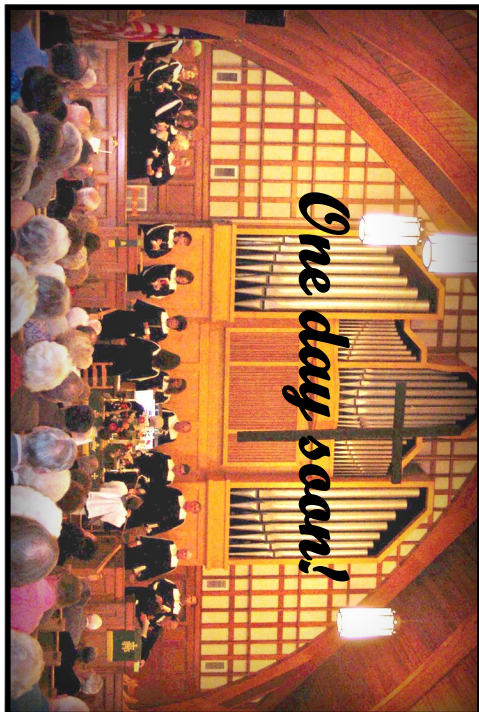
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Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

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Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◇ Because of ongoing concerns over the coronavirus, I am unable to make in-person visits. I would like to stay in touch, however. If you would like to talk with me for counseling or just to say hello, please call 1-434-738-8841.
- ◇ A reminder that the session had suspended in-person worship through the month of June. They will meet by conference call on June 28 to make a decision going forward. Please be in prayer for our Session members as they consider this very important matter.
- ◇ Also, please recall that Vacation Bible School has been postponed. We hope to get it in before school starts, but we will have to wait and see how things develop.
- ◇ As our nation continues through these difficult times, keep in mind the beautiful and comforting words of Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will not slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and coming in from this time on and forevermore.



June Birthdays

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|------------------|--|
| 21 st | Ed Gibson |
| 22 nd | Brooke Carnevali |
| 23 rd | Maddox Hale |
| 24 th | Tarie Warlitzer Katie Gibson |
| 25 th | Leta Bartley Wayne Barksdale Linda Wickham |
| 27 th | Aubrey Bowling Matthew Fleenor Silas Riley |
| 28 th | Donna Tucker |
| 29 th | Becky Hylton |
| 30 th | Anita Boone Jeff Horn |

*Happy!
Marriage!*

Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 21 st | Frank & Susan Sponaugle Gary & Beverly Bishop |
| 29 th | Buddy & Margie Young |



Musical Minute:

Even with the rain and cooler weather this past week, I've had a sunny "golden-oldie" hymn bouncing around in my head. It's titled "When They Ring the Golden Bells." Copyrighted in 1887, the piece can be found in my copy of the 1938 Cokesbury hymnal which, based on the stamp located on the inside cover, was at one time "Property of Granbery Memorial Sunday School." (Yet another pilfered item in my inherited stash of music!) "Golden Bells" was reportedly a favorite hymn of my great-grandfather Loving. When mom, dad and baby Nick moved to Nashville in the early 1960s for dad to attend school, he made a studio recording (a reel-to-reel tape!) to send to my great-grandparents including some of their most beloved pieces. Andy had it digitalized for me so I can hear Papa in his mid-twenties singing the following joyous chorus celebrating life's end for a person of faith:

*"Don't you hear the bells now ringing, Don't you hear the angels singing?
'Tis the glory hallelujah Jubilee. (Jubilee.)
In that far-off sweet forever, Just beyond the shining river,
When they ring the golden bells for you and me."*

When we still had our precious dog, Zanna, I often found myself singing this chorus while walking her on a beautiful day. When she was a tiny pup and still getting to know me, I think she was at first alarmed to hear me break out into song! Soon she came to trust that it was a sign of my good mood and of a leisurely, long, and happy walk to come.

A favorite hymn can put one's heart at rest, reminding us of our faith, delivering assurance and bringing back memories of loved ones. While we're still practicing social distancing and getting used to the sight of half-empty store shelves and people in masks, I hope that you're able to find a hymn in your heart and mind that will instantly transport you to a bright and sunny place where your faith is invigorated.

Happy Father's Day!

Beth

Congratulations Graduates Class of 2020

Abigail Grace Poague graduated from Roanoke College receiving a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Health and Exercise Science. She will continue her education in the master's program at Lynchburg University.

Abigail graduated from Covington High School in Class of 2016 as Salutatorian. She is the daughter of Craig and Angie Poague; granddaughter of Howard and Pam Poague; also, Barbara Entsminger, and the late Sylvia Entsminger.



Cody H. Ramsey graduates as a Class of 2020 honor student with an advanced diploma from Alleghany High School and an Electrical Certificate from Jackson River Technical Center.

Cody is the son of Patrick Ramsey, the late Amber Ramsey, and Jill Shifflett – Ramsey. Cody will be attending Virginia Military Institute in the fall, with plans to pursue a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

One of Cody's favorite memories at McAllister was helping to keep the Nursery.



Scott Scholarships Awarded for 2020

Congratulations to Rachael Suzanne Kinsey and Justin Preston Leitch who have both received awards from the T. Stratton and Helen Jamison Scott Scholarship Fund.

Rachael and Justin graduated from Alleghany High School Class of 2020 and will continue their education at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in the fall.

The Scott Scholarship was established by Stratton and Helen Scott to encourage and assist members of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church to continue their education.

Three Tough Mice

Three mice are sitting at a table in a pretty rough neighborhood late at night trying to impress each other about how tough they are.

The first mouse turns to the second mouse and says, "When I see a mouse-trap, I lie on my back and set it off with my foot. When the bar comes down, I catch it in my teeth, bench press it twenty times to work up an appetite, and then make off with the cheese."

The second mouse replies, "Yeah, well, when I see rat poison, I collect as much as I can, take it home, grind it up to a powder, and add it to my coffee each morning so I can get going for the rest of the day."

The first mouse and the second mouse then turn to the third mouse.

The third mouse lets out a long sigh and says to the first two, "I don't have time for this. I've got a date with the cat."

[Author Unknown -- Received from HAND, via 'Good Clean Funnies List' (gcfl-info@gcfl.net)]

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|---|
| <p style="text-align:center"><u>LECTIONARY</u></p> |
| <p style="text-align:center">June 21 <i>12th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align:center">Genesis 21: 8-12; Psalms 86: 1-10, 16-17 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39</p> |
| <p style="text-align:center">June 28 <i>13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align:center">Genesis 22: 1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6: 12-23 Matthew 10: 40-42</p> |

Newsletter Information

Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone. We would love to hear from you and share you joys, laughs, and concerns.

***(Deadline for next newsletter is
Monday ~ June 29 @ 4 PM.)***

The Church Office is open, but we encourage people to refrain from stopping by if a phone call or email will suffice. The office contact information is located on the back page. Also, please mail donations to the church address or donate online.

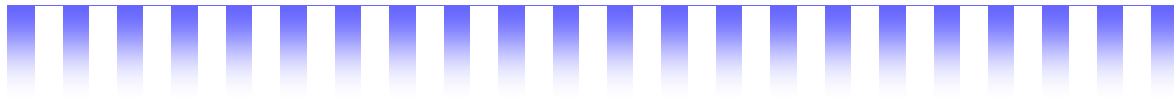
Thank You Note

To Rev. Moss and my McAllister Church Family,

I cannot find words to tell you how much your cards, notes, phone calls, thoughts and prayers have meant to me in the past few weeks. It has been a difficult time for me since mis-April but your love and caring has helped me reach this point of recovery.

Please keep me in your prayers and may God bless you.

My Humble Thanks,
Travis O'Rourke



Father's Day History

Sonora Dodd, of Washington, first had the idea of a "father's day." She thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Sonora wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. Smart, who was a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife died while giving birth to their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state.

After Sonora became an adult she realized the selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.

President Calvin Coolidge, in 1924, supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Then in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

“Happy Father’s Day!”

Healing, Safety, Deliverance, Peace and a Cure.

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|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Members | Joyce Boone Edna Buffaloe Charity Hale Carl Irvine Bobby & Debi Leitch Bonnie Patterson Gary Whitehead | Anita Boone Jean Casey Sonya Milton Anita Rice Dwain Tyree | Linda Bogar Doris Mottern Travis O'Rourke Teresa Powell | Pam Key B. R. Rupert Brenda Walker Martha Wilhelm | |
| | Kristen Garten & baby George Leitch Craig Nicely Kristi Pleasant Tyson Uzzell | Richard "Pete" Gilbert Barbara Hayse Shana Hotzapolous Pat & Dottie Shumaker Marcy Thompson | Randy Anderson Andy Casey Pat Eads Randy Gilbert Evan Groves John May Dee Dee Simpson | <i>Covid—19 Patients</i> <i>Essential Workers</i> <i>Healthcare Workers</i> <i>President Trump</i> <i>Students</i> <i>Teachers</i> | |
| Friends/Family | | | | | |
| Hospice | Carl "Pete" Irvine Bobby Leitch | Deaths | Elmer Bowen Judith Wolfe | Travis Braxton Wanda Jean Hayslett Irvine | |
| Continuing Prayer | Tillie Agnor Roger Akers Doc Altizer Jan Armentrout Grayson Asboth Sherry Ayers Erskine Back Miki Ballengee Bob & Leta Bartley Steve Bennett Becky Bowers Jean Broughman Doris Burley Emily Byer Lee Cabaniss Elwood Cadd Jean & Harry Casey Betsy Caul | Junior Clark Minnie Clark Sandra Clemmons Kenzie Cline Ricky Cooke Harold Craft Steven Craft Randell Dille Joy Dodson Corky Downer Leslie Downer Kaylee Elmore Joyce Emerson Lee & Lelia Fadley Jim & Barbara Flint Marshall/Donna Fox Betty Gibson Eddie Gibson | Robert/Gail Gibson Don Hampton Jennifer Hannah Richard/Cora Hastings Danny/Rhoda Hill James Hoover Neil Horn Becky Hunter Charlie Jeffries Wendell/Judy Jones Susan Kennedy Susan Lindstrom Bonnie Lockhart David/Phyllis Lynn Doris Ann Miller Pearl Miller Patty Nicely Bonnie Patterson | Denise Pillow Billy Powell Betty Ray Frank/April Reyns Jim Reyns Shelby Rock Pat Smith Monzell Sovereign Angie Sponaugle Sally Steele Gary Stone Bill Thompson Ethan Thompson Adena Tingler Carolyn Tolley Darrell/Donna Tucker Pete Turner Buddy Vass | Barbara Warlitrer Danny Warlitrer Gail Washburn Dennis Whitehead Pat/Larry Whitmer Christy Wiley Angie Wilkerson Donna Wilson Joe & Dot Wimer Joey Wimer Linda Payton Wolfe Elected Officials U.S. Troops WRE |
| <u>BRIAN CENTER</u> —Bill Lockhart, Bonnie Patterson, Ruby Stull <u>WOODLANDS</u> —Edna Buffaloe <u>VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER</u> —Charles P. Hall, Roy Reynolds <u>SCOTT HILL</u> —Norma Leech, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead <u>SHUT-IN</u> —Joyce Bartley, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Sadie Landis, Louise Whitehead, Eddie Williams | | | | <u>MILITARY</u> Kristen Bennett, Richard Bray, Kristopher Hoffman Ryan Pritts, Chris Whitehead, <u>MISSIONARIES</u> Tom & Judy Harvey | |