

# McAllister Messenger

July 5, 2020

## The Truth Will Make You Free

This weekend, we celebrate Independence Day in the United States. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate our freedom, which was guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence. It is also a chance to give thanks for those who serve our country and help preserve those freedoms for us.

In addition to our celebration of our nation's freedom and the freedoms we enjoy as its citizens, the day is a chance for us to think about the concept of Christian freedom. This freedom is referred to in John 8:32, when Jesus utters those famous words, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." What is the truth Jesus is referring to, and what does it mean to be free in this sense?

To answer that question, we must look more closely at the context for that verse. It comes in a passage where Jesus is describing the meaning of discipleship. Jesus says in verse 7 of John 32, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples." The truth, therefore, is what makes us disciples. But what does this mean, that we have become disciples? This is where the concept of Christian freedom comes in, and Jesus explains it further in verse 34-36 of that chapter.

Jesus says this: "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin... so if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." So in the spiritual sense, we are free when our sins are forgiven, which happens because of what Jesus did on the cross and through the empty tomb.

In other words, forgiveness is freedom. And this freedom is a free gift which God has given us through Christ's death and resurrection. All we need to do is what Jesus says in some more famous words of his, the words of John 3:16 – for "whosoever believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life." That is where true Christian freedom can be found – in belief in the freedom from sin we receive in Christ.

So let us celebrate our freedom as Americans on this Fourth of July holiday. But let us also celebrate our freedom as Christians from sin, our forgiveness in Christ. They are both gifts we are called on to cherish and preserve.



McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church  
900 North Alleghany Avenue  
Covington, VA 24426



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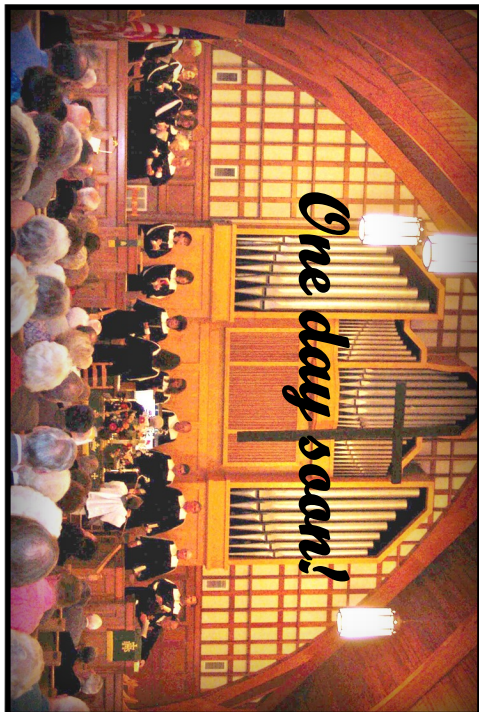
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## Reassuring Scriptures for Uncertain Times

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

—*Deuteronomy 31:8*

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

—*Psalms 18:2*

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

—*Isaiah 41:10*

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They are like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

—*Jeremiah 17:7-8*

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. —*John 16:33*

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

—*Philippians 4: 6-7*

## July Birthdays

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>      | Abigail Poague                             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>      | Neil Horn<br>Rebecca Hudson<br>Evan Bishop |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>      | Amy Bishop                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>      | Rilee Webb                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>      | Hallie Dressler                            |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>      | Roberta Whitmer Horn                       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>      | Judy Whitehead                             |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>     | Bert Caul                                  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>     | Amy Hoover<br>Sierra Daily                 |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>     | Brandon Sponaugle                          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>     | Kyndle Koonce                              |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>     | Sara Nicely                                |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>     | Jeremiah Walker<br>Teresa Powell           |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>     | Jerry Givens, Sr.                          |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>     | Chuck Bartley                              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>     | Dorothy Wimer                              |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>     | Jeana Lee Colberg                          |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>     | Larry Whitmer                              |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>     | Margie Young<br>Larry Washburn             |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>     | Parker Hudson                              |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>     | Tori Paxton                                |
| <b>Anniversaries</b> |  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>      | Harry & Jean Casey                         |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>      | Aubrey & Pat Bowling                       |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>     | Charity & Nathan Hale                      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>     | Deanna & Giuseppe D’Arpa                   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>     | Tracey & Terri Walker                      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>     | Kylene & David Smith                       |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>     | Debbie & Steve Bennett                     |

## The Daily Bread Devotional booklets are here. Stop by and get one.

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



## Musical Minute:

If you'll bear with me on this one, I promise that we'll eventually get around to a hymn! I read an article in the *Virginian Review* this spring that the year 2020 marked the emergence of the 17-year periodical cicada in southwest Virginia. While the article highlighted the fascinating life cycle of these critters, I didn't think much more of it until they arrived on our doorstep!

I went outside in early June to plant a few flower pots and noticed hundreds and hundreds of pencil-sized holes in the ground. It looked as though someone had come during the night with a knitting needle and poked all around the garden. Andy commented that near one of our paths through the woods it appeared that the earth had been completely turned. What could have caused these mysterious disturbances?! It wasn't long after that the tell-tale drone began. Aha—the cicadas had emerged right in our backyard! The din was continuous and deafening during daylight hours. We had a delivery person who commented that when he got out of his van, he felt like he was in a science fiction movie and was about to be devoured at any moment by something unseen. They were with us for several weeks, waking us each morning shortly after 5 am with their seemingly tireless buzzing. (According to the article, male cicadas are the musicians of the family, "singing" in an attempt to attract female mates. The males use "tymbals," a structure including vibrating membranes, on either side of the abdomen under their wings.) The whole process is really quite bizarre and miraculous. Imagine hatching, burrowing underground to remain for 17 years, emerging to complete the mating ritual, and then dying.

While the noise was intense, the insects themselves weren't intrusive, although we're now finding the little molted "husks" from the newly emerged nymphs all around. And frankly, now that they've done what they came to do and have completed their life cycle, the outside seems a little lonely. Luckily, we still have the tree frogs, grasshoppers, peepers, birds, and crickets to keep us company, not to mention our silent friends the turtles, preying mantis, lightning bugs, salamanders, lizards and serpents (shudder!). . . It all puts me in mind of one of my very favorite hymns since childhood:

*"All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful; The Lord God made them all."*

Hope that you're able to get outside to enjoy some of what makes a Virginia summer so very special. Happy Fourth of July!

*Beth*

## LECTIONARY

July 5

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45: 10-17

or Song of Sol. 2:8-13

Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

July 12

### 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 25: 19-34

Psalms 119: 105-112

Romans 8: 1-11

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

## 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 ~ July 13 @ 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.

## The Preacher and the Lawn Mower

A preacher was making his rounds to his parishioners on a bicycle, when he came upon a little boy trying to sell a lawnmower.

"How much do you want for the mower?" asked the preacher.

"I'm just trying to make enough money to buy a bicycle," said the little boy.

After a moment of consideration, the preacher asked, "Will you take my bike in trade for it?"

The boy said, "You got a deal."

The preacher took the mower and tried to start it. He pulled on the cord a few times with no response from the mower.

The preacher called the little boy over and said, "I can't get this mower to start."

The little boy said, "That's 'cause you have to cuss at it to get it started."

The preacher said, "I'm a minister, and I can't cuss. It's been so long since I've been 'saved' that I don't know if I even remember how to cuss."

The little boy looked at him with a smile and said, "Just keep pulling on that cord. It'll come back to ya!"

[ Author Unknown -- From Denial ]

## *The Pledge of Allegiance -- From the Red Skelton Hour*

January 14, 1969 -- This actually took place on live TV.

Getting back to school, I remember a teacher that I had. Now I only went, I went through the seventh grade. I left home when I was 10 years old because I was hungry. (laughter) And .. this is true.

I worked in the summer and went to school in the winter. But, I had this one teacher, he was the principal of the Harrison school, in Vincennes, Indiana. To me, this was the greatest teacher, a real sage....of my time, anyhow. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance one day, and he walked over. This little old teacher ... Mr. Lasswell was his name. He said:

*I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?*

I: me, an individual, a committee of one.

PLEDGE: dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

ALLEGIANCE: my love and my devotion.

TO THE FLAG: our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

[OF THE]

UNITED: that means that we have all come together.

STATES: individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

[OF AMERICA]

AND TO THE REPUBLIC: Republic ... a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

[FOR WHICH IT STANDS]

ONE NATION: One Nation ... meaning, so blessed by God.

INDIVISIBLE: incapable of being divided.

WITH LIBERTY: which is freedom, the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

AND JUSTICE: the principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others.

FOR ALL: ... which means, boys and girls, that it's as much your country as it is mine.

And now boys and girls let me hear you recite, the Pledge of Allegiance...

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, (Alaska and Hawaii) and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance - "UNDER GOD".

"WOULDN'T IT BE A PITY IF SOMEONE SAID, "THAT IS A PRAYER," AND THAT WOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM SCHOOLS, TOO?"

Signed: *Red Skelton*

*"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

~ Pamela Perry Blaine ~© June 2002, [pamyblaine@blaines.us](mailto:pamyblaine@blaines.us)

## Sympathy

McAllister Church extends sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Robert Preston Leitch** ~ member ~ passed away June 19, 2020. At Bobby's request, a memorial service will be held at Humpback Bridge July 18, 2020. In lieu of flowers, a fund has been established at Highlands Community Bank to help defray cost of Bobby's funeral.

**Alice Joyce Bush Boone** ~ member ~ passed away June 21, 2020. Her service was June 24, 2020 at the graveside in Alleghany Memorial Park.

**Richard "Pete" Gilbert** ~ nephew of Priscilla Moncus ~ passed away June 12, 2020.