

McAllister Messenger

August 2, 2020

God Is Still Working

This past Sunday during its conference call, the Session decided to continue suspending in-person worship services. We will continue to broadcast by Facebook Live as we have been doing. The rationale was that the benefits are not worth the risks at this time. We simply do not want to take the risk of someone getting infected because they came to one of our services.

At a time like this, we might be tempted to think that our mission as a church is being suspended as well. Without Sunday school, Bible study, women's circles, or other special events meeting, we might think that the witness of our church simply isn't happening. It is on pause.

I encourage us to draw inspiration from Acts 16 and the story of Paul and Silas in prison. In this story, the evangelistic duo has been thrown in jail. As they wait in their cells, it might seem that their mission has been suspended. It might seem that their witness of travelling around and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ is on pause.

But consider what Paul and Silas do while they are in prison. According to the story, they are praying and singing hymns to God, and someone is listening. Because when God sends an earthquake and frees the two men, the jailer is converted to Christ. It seems that the praying and singing of Paul and Silas prepared to jailer for this moment for God to act.

We can do the same as we are in our time of pause from in-person worship and other activities. What can we do that is the equivalent of Paul and Silas praying and singing to God? What can we be occupying ourselves with during this time when we are not gathering as a church? How can we be preparing for God to do something special and act in our midst?

Let us think and reflect on these questions as we continue to gather online to pray and worship the Lord. And let us know that God has not stopped working in our midst.

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



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McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

900 N. Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

(540) 962-2675

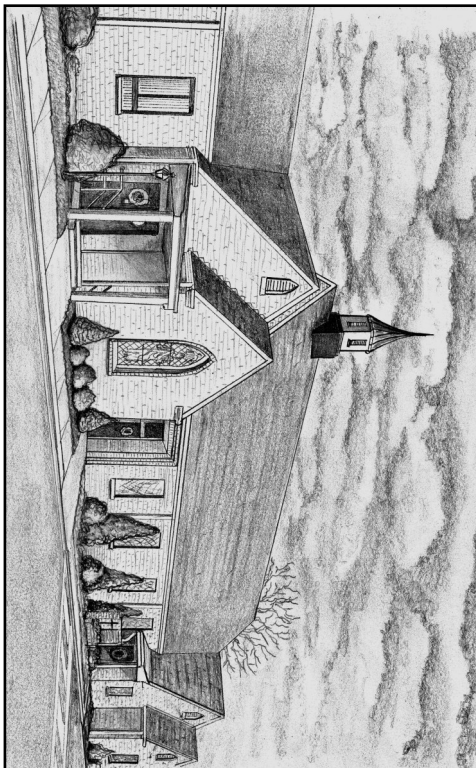
e-mail - mcmpres@ntelos.net

Website: mcallistermempcusa.org
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

Email—revjimmos95@gmail.com





Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Member Etha Virginia Craft Hayslett

Etha Virginia Craft Hayslett received the 2020 Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Award at age 101.

Etha and her twin sister, Letha, were born March 28, 1919 to Edward (Pete) and Ella Mae Craft of Longdale. Etha was the 10th and Letha was the 11th child in a family of 12. Her mother died in childbirth with the 12th child when Etha was five years old.

As a child, Etha attended Longdale Methodist Church and was baptized in Simpson Creek at the age of 12.

Early in the 1930's part of the Craft family moved closer to Covington for work at the paper mill and rayon plant. They lived in a house on Highland Avenue.

After working at the rayon plant for a short time Etha met A.A. (Gus) Hayslett, who worked at the paper mill. They were married October 5, 1935 and lived with Gus' parents on Virginia Avenue until moving into their own place on Cedar Street. While there Etha and Gus were blessed with a daughter, Harriet, in October 1937 and a son, A.A. Jr., in May 1939. They then moved to Altamont and attended Mallow Presbyterian Church until Gus got notice for military exam and possibly being drafted for WWII. The decision was made to move uptown where stores and doctor offices were within walking distance. However, the call did not come for military duty; the age limit disqualified him.

They then moved to Callaghan, where a third child, Pamela, was born in 1945. This was home while the children attended school in Callaghan, Jeter and Covington High Schools.

The family attended church at Fletcher's Chapel where they helped with Sunday school and bible school. When the Associate Reform Presbyterian Church started having services at an old store on Johnson's Creek, Etha and her family started attending Sunday services there. Etha helped with classes and bible school. The new church was built before the move back to Covington, she felt blessed to be a part of the beginning of the new church.

Etha didn't stay home when the children went to school, instead she found work at the Courtesy Store, Smith's Super Market and the Beauty Shop. While living in Callaghan she studied, became a licensed beautician and opened her own beauty shop. While living on Alleghany Avenue, Etha managed the Chestnut Street laundromat.

In 1963 Etha and Gus moved into their newly built home in Intervale. The family started attending McAllister Church—Gus' home church. Etha was very active and sang in the choir as long as she was able.

All of her children are married and Etha is a grandmother to eight, great-grandmother to fourteen and great-great grandmother to eight.

Since Gus' death in 2007, Etha has lived in her home of 57 years, with the help of family, friends and generous neighbors. She prays she will be there as long ad possible.

Members	Luke Crawford Leslie Downer Frankie Marshall Sonya Milton Doris Mottern Gary Whitehead	Debi Leitch Patsy Parker Bonnie Patterson Sandy Unroe Persinger B. R. Rupert Natalie Sponaugle	Anita Boone Edna Buffaloe Jean Casey Dwain Tyree Brenda Walker Martha Wilhelm	Linda Bogar Charity Hale Pam Key Travis O'Rourke Teresa Powell Anita Rice	
	ReRe Bryant Jace Cantrell Connie Holloway George Leitch Justin Nicely	Natalie Austin Tom Greenwood Barbara Hayse Shana Hotzapolous Koonce Family Margaret Nicely	Randy Anderson Andy Casey Pat Eads Randy Gilbert Pat & Dottie Shumaker	<i>Covid—19 Patients</i> <i>Essential Workers</i> <i>Healthcare Workers</i> <i>President Trump</i> <i>Prisoners</i> <i>Students</i> <i>Teachers</i>	
Hospice	Carl "Pete" Irvine	Deaths	Buck Barnette Glenna Cook Smith Harmon		
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 Dilley Joy Dodson Corky Downer Kaylee Elmore Joyce Emerson Lee & Lelia Fadley Jim & Barbara Flint Marshall/Donna Fox Betty Gibson Eddie Gibson Robert/Gail Gibson	Evan Groves 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 Denise Pillow	Billy Powell Betty Ray Frank/April Reyns Jim Reyns Shelby Rock Dee Dee Simpson Pat Smith Monzell Sovereign Angie Sponaugle Sally Steele Gary Stone Bill Thompson Ethan Thompson Marcy 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>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	



Musical Minute:

I received a delightful surprise in the mailbox last week in the form of a letter from my beloved longtime friend, Karen Williams Chichester. As most of you know, Karen is a child of McAllister and also one of McAllister's gifted former organists. She has been following the reconstruction of our Holtkamp from her home in Reedville, Va., and wanted to share a wonderful story about the first occasion the newly installed pipe organ was called to duty for a Sunday service in 1974. I believe that Karen was in college during the time of the organ installation and was traveling to and from school to play at McAllister on Sundays. Below is an excerpt from her letter.

"I can't help but remember the first Sunday—I was finishing the prelude, the choir came in, and all of a sudden the organ was playing ALL notes, ALL keys and I had to stop and go to the piano. It was absolutely wild! Everything was checked and the next Sunday—same thing! They finally realized that our wonderful tenors and basses needed extra support under the floor. Reinforcement—problem solved!"

That's one of the unique things about our amazing mechanical action (tracker action) pipe organ. When a key is depressed on the keyboard, it pulls a tracker in the organ console which pulls a pallet that is directly mechanically linked to the opening at the base of the pipes deep within the organ case. When the key is played, a pallet is pulled, which eventually results in air entering the pipe and the pipe sounding. The combined weight of the manly men of McAllister's choir had the same effect on the trackers that run under the floor from the organ console into the organ case as if Karen had been leaning on the keyboards and pedals with her feet, hands, elbows and forehead! Talk about a joyful noise! Thanks, Karen, for sharing your very special memory about the first cacophonous days of our Holtkamp!

Restoration of the pipe organ continues even while the church remains closed. I am convinced that we could not have found a more qualified professional to carry out the work than Thomas Rohlf. (And fortunately, Thomas is only in Rocky Mount if we happen to experience something similar to what happened in 1974!) Thank you all for your extraordinary generosity and support.

Take good care and stay well.

Beth

LECTIONARY

August 2

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 32:22-32

Psalms 17:1-7

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

August 8

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

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 your joys, laughs, and concerns.

(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ August 10 @ 4 p.m.)

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.

Notes From Pastor Jim

1. As mentioned in the lead article, the Session voted on Sunday to continue to suspend in-person worship for the time being. We will continue to broadcast live each Sunday on Facebook. Tonya Jones is doing Sunday school at 9:45, and we do worship at 11:00
2. We continue to do a "Five-Minute Bible Study" each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm on Facebook Live. As always, the video is available on the Facebook page after the broadcast so you can watch it anytime. We are going through the Book of Genesis. This week, we are up to Joseph and the story of what his jealous brothers do to him. Please tune in!
3. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, I am still unable to make hospital and nursing home visits. I am willing to make in-home visits, wearing a mask and social distancing. Please call me if you would like a visit, or know of someone who might need one. My number is 434-738-8841.

***Never part without loving words.
They might be your last.***

August Birthdays


- 1st Charity Hale
Debbie Kennedy
Dianne Mahan
Missy Reid
- 2nd Aiden Riley
- 5th Kylene Riley Smith
Jerry Givens, Jr.
- 7th Chase Carper
- 8th Robbie Weikle
Lelia Fadley
Levi Bartley
- 10th Mikayla Webb
- 11th Kevin Scott Young
- 12th Susan Kennedy
Branden Hill
- 14th Bob Crush
Rachel Ann Hannah
- 15th Cathy Rowan
Holden Patrick Downer
- 16th Louise Whitehead
Ronnie Barger
Brigette Young
- 18th Jim Faidley
- 20th Jennifer Markham
- 21st Marc Downer
- 22nd Larry O'Rourke
- 23rd Darlene Taylor
Norma Leech
Craig Nicely
- 24th Reagan Paitsel
- 25th Bonnie Patterson
Joe Wimer
Evan Nicely
- 26th Eric Hill
Gary Whitmer
Brandon Weese
- 27th Jill Shifflett
Phyllis Bartley
Michael Whitehead
- 29th Wynona Crush
Jean Casey
- 30th Susan Sponaugle
- 31st Stacey Bryant

August Anniversaries

- 1st Stephen & Terri Carper
Larry & Josephine O'Rourke
Harry & Gina Tingler
- 6th Jerry & Lynn Whitehead
Frank & April Reynolds
- 13th Matthew & Marianne Fleenor
- 14th Richard & Priscilla Downer
- 15th Jim & Marlene Faidley
- 17th Jean & Carl Irvine
David & Shannon Rodgers
- 20th Rob & Erin Bartley
Heather & Brian Riley
- 21st Jerry & Susan Givens
- 22nd Darrell & Donna Tucker

Presbyterian Women

We need your support.
You can include your dues in
your regular offering envelope.

Help Louise Whitehead**
Celebrate her 95th Birthday!
No presents please!
Just send lots of cards
and stop by her house on
August 16 from 12 to 4
for cake and ice cream. 

**Louise Whitehead ~ 1016 North Beverly Avenue, Covington, VA

"Bent"

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8 (NLT)

Matchbox 20 had a hit song called "Bent." Radio stations still play it, just not quite as much. In this particular song, Rob Thomas—the lead singer and songwriter for the band—manages to capture the emotion behind what seems to be a universal problem. Here are a few lines:

*If I fall along the way
Pick me up and dust me off
And if I get too tired to make it
Be my breath so I can walk*

*Can you help me - I'm bent
I'm so scared that I'll never
Get put back together...*

*I started out clean but I'm jaded
Just phoning it in
Just breaking the skin*

Shouldn't be so complicated...

Can you identify? No matter how hard you try, you seem to keep messing up? When you step back from your life to take a look, it seems like you're always coming up short? You watch the news and wonder what this world is coming to? You're tired of the struggle and just want to phone it in? You long for life to be simple—the way it's supposed to be—rather than so complicated? You wonder if a life like yours is really worth God paying attention to—or better yet, saving? Your capacity for wrong-doing scares you?

God knew we would have feelings like this. That's why He sent Jesus into the world... so that these realities wouldn't leave us hopeless. Yes, we are human. Yes, we are sinners. And yes, we are bent. But the good news is that God's grace covers our condition. His grace not only enables us to face life here, but it also promises that one day—in the kingdom of heaven—we will be put back together...we will be whole.

[Author Unknown -- from 'Aiken Drum' (Aiken@AikensLaughs.com)]