

McAllister Messenger

November 15, 2020

When The Leaves Keep On Falling

Last Saturday, I spent some time in the backyard raking leaves. Our lot is full of oak trees, so the leaves that had fallen were thickly covering the ground. I had my work cut out for me.

I gathered the leaves up into several big piles, and then stuffed them into a trash can to move them to the back of our lot. It was hard work, and my arm and legs soon began to ache under the strain of the labor. Eventually, I grew so fatigued that I had to quit. Looking up, I noticed that I had cleared about half of the backyard. Satisfied with my accomplishments, I could at least feel good about the leaves I had been able to move, even if I had not been able to clear the whole yard.

Today, when I looked out at the backyard, I was dismayed by what I saw. New leaves had fallen and had covered up the ground that I had so painstakingly raked. It looked as if I had never raked at all. Many of you can probably relate to my discouragement, as I realized I would have to spend another Saturday afternoon doing the hard work of raking just to catch back up.

During these extraordinary times we are living in, we can often feel this sort of discouragement about life and the work that we do in life. No matter how hard we work, or how much we think we have accomplished, we can soon find it wiped out by some aspect of the pandemic or by the other difficult things our nation is going through. It can feel like our efforts are being covered up by the ongoing difficulty and uncertainty.

As we struggle with this discouragement and uncertainty, it is good for us to remember a few important things. First, that God has power over the situation and that God is still in control. Second, that God loves us and has our best interests at heart. And finally, that the truth in both of these things reminds us that we are going to get through this. Eventually, the leaves will stop falling, and we will be able to catch up to all the challenges that we are facing.

So keep on raking. And keep on moving those leaves. God is with us, and God cares for us more than we know. Let us give thanks for the God that sustains and redeems us!

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

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



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Covington, VA
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Amen Crackers

Have you ever heard of “Amen Crackers”? I hadn’t either until my granddaughter, Amanda, came for a visit. Amanda is not quite two but ever since her parents taught her to pray she always prays for each individual thing on her plate.

One evening at suppertime Amanda was in the high chair and I went over to the kitchen counter to fill her plate. Her Mother had put three small crackers on her high chair tray to give her something to eat while I fixed her plate. I watched as she bowed her head and touched the first cracker with her index finger and said, “Amen cracker”. She touched the next cracker and said, “Amen cracker”, and then she went to the last cracker, touching it, and again saying, “Amen Cracker.” She thought the tiny crackers were her supper so she was saying her prayers.

Amanda has figured out that prayers have an “amen” in them but sometimes she gets the “amen” at the beginning instead of at the end of her prayers.

I got to thinking about the word, “amen” and I found that in Hebrew the word “amen” means to confirm and it is spoken to state, “so be it”. When we end our prayers with “amen” we are reaffirming our dedication to God. Sometimes church members or congregations say, “Amen”, to show confirmation or agreement when something powerful is spoken from the Word of God.

Amanda’s prayer might seem very simple but maybe she wasn’t so far off in what she was doing because she would have been confirming her dedication to God first of all instead of at the end. At any rate, we can gain wisdom from “the mouths of babes”. I learned several things from Amanda and her “Amen Crackers”.

- I learned that prayer should be a priority.
- I learned that whatever is on my “plate” I should be thankful for it.
- I learned I should keep it simple and be specific.
- I learned to have faith and trust God even when all I have is three crackers.
- I learned it is best to tend to my own crackers that have been provided for me and allow God to fill my plate.
- I learned to be patient. Even if I’m sitting in a high chair, I can’t see what is going on in God’s kitchen from where I sit.
- I learned to thank God for the small things, and not complain, even if all I have is crackers.
- I learned it doesn’t matter if you get the prayer backwards, God hears our hearts.

Have you thanked God for the crackers in your life?

“In everything give thanks for this is the will of Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians. 5:18)

Amen!

~ Pamela Perry Blaine ~ © June 23, 2008 pamyblaine@blaines.us

Prayer Concerns:

Tillie Agnor	Randell Dilley	Susan Lindstrom	Brenda Walker
Roger Akers	Joy Dodson	Frankie Marshall	Barbara Warlitner
Doc Altizer	Corky Downer	Pearl Miller	Danny Warlitner
Randy Anderson	Leslie Downer	Sonya Milton	Gail Washburn
Jan Armentrout	Priscilla Downer	Doris Mottern	Carolyn Waugh
Grayson Asboth	Kaylee Elmore	Justin Nicely	Dennis Whitehead
Sherry Ayers	Joyce Emerson	Patty Nicely	Gary Whitehead
Erskine Back	Lee & Lelia Fadley	Travis O’Rourke	Pat & Larry Whitmer
Miki Ballengee	Jim & Barbara Flint	Robbie Paitsel	Christy Wiley
Bob & Leta Bartley	Marshall & Donna Fox	Denise Pillow	Martha Wilhelm
Steve Bennett	Nadine Fullen	Billy Powell	Angie Wilkerson
Linda Bogar	Betty Gibson	Teresa Powell	Donna Wilson
Anita Boone	Eddie Gibson	Betty Ray	Joe & Dot Wimer
Becky Bowers	Robert/Gail Gibson	Frank & April Reynolds	Joey Wimer
Jean Broughman	Randy Gilbert	Jim Reynolds	Linda Payton Wolfe
Doris Burley	Tom Greenwood	B. R. Rupert	Buddy Young
Emily Byer	Evan Groves	Pat Smith	
Lee Cabaniss	Don Hampton	Monzell Sovereign	<i>Caregivers</i>
Elwood Cadd	Jennifer Hannah	Angie Sponaugle	<i>Covid—19 Patients</i>
Andy Casey	Richard & Cora Hastings	Natalie Sponaugle	<i>Elected Officials</i>
Jean & Harry Casey	Danny & Rhoda Hill	Sally Steele	<i>Essential Workers</i>
Betsy Caul	Connie Holloway	Bill Thompson	<i>Healthcare Workers</i>
Junior Clark	James Hoover	Ethan Thompson	<i>Non Believers</i>
Minnie Clark	Neil Horn	Marcy Thompson	<i>President Trump</i>
Sandra Clemmons	Shana Hotzapolous	Adena Tingler	<i>President Elect Biden</i>
Kenzie Cline	Becky Hunter	Carolyn Tolley	<i>Prisoners</i>
Terry Coffman	Charlie Jeffries	Darrell & Donna Tucker	<i>U.S. Troops</i>
Ricky Cooke	Wendell & Judy Jones	Pete Turner	<i>Students/Teachers</i>
Jim Corson	Susan Kennedy	Dwain Tyree	<i>WRE</i>
Steven Craft	Debi Leitch	Buddy Vass	
Luke Crawford	George Leitch	Lucy Vest	

HOSPICE—Carl “Pete” Irvine

BRIAN CENTER—Norma Leech, Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull, Louise Whitehead

VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER—Roy Lee Reynolds

SCOTT HILL—Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Sadie Landis, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock, Eddie Williams

DEATHS	Charles Hall	Linda Bowling	Mary Broce
	Virgie Martin	Rev. Harold Keese	Gwen Gorham
	Lillian Pyne	Delories Riddlebarger	Samuel Rothwell
	Gary Showalter	Henry Smith	Greg Paxton
	Dee Dee Simpson	Cecil Taylor	

MILITARY — Kristen Bennett, Richard Bray, Kristopher Hoffman, Ryan Pritts, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES — Tom & Judy Harvey, Esslinger/Lee



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN...

Don't forget to include your circle offering along with your regular church offering. We missed our Birthday month and Blanket Sunday, but will send money in for these, as well as our Thank Offering and Least Coin.

If you would like to include gifts for these, please indicate accordingly.

Newsletter Information

Its been a long time since we have heard from many of our members and friends. We would love to hear how you are getting along and share you joys, laughs, and concerns. Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone.

(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ November 23 @ 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.

~POINSETTIA NOTICE~ order by December 6th

The Worship and Planning Committee will be using red poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Sunday December 13th and 20th. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 6, 2020. Make checks payable to McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church, marked "Poinsettia". Enclose with the order form below and return to the church office or you may call in your order at—962-2675.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

In memory/
In honor _____

Given by _____

Number of Plants: _____ At \$12.50 each = _____



**** You may pick your plant up after the service on December 20th or 24th .****

Sympathy

McAllister Church extends sympathy and pray to the family & friends of:

Rev. Harold G. Keesee
member

Deloris Rudisill Riddlebarger
sister of Rhoda Hill

Linda Landis Bowling
sister-in-law of Aubrey Bowling

LECTIONARY

November 15 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
I Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalms 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Greg Paxton by

Marshall and Donna Fox
Butch and Norma Curtin
Chuck and Jean Bartley

In memory of Edna Buffaloe by

Pam Key
Joe and Dot Wimer
Chuck and Jean Bartley

In loving memory of Alice Taylor Howard by

Pam Key

November BIRTHDAYS

- 15 Colton Poague
- 17 Jamie Bryant
- 18 Shannon Rodgers
- 21 Kevin Bennett
Jared Downer
- Kayleigh Hicks
- 22 Bucky Mottern
- 23 Garlynda Haynes
Janet Linkenhoker
- 26 Kelly Patterson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Jerry & Darlene Taylor



Chrismon Tree

will be decorated on Sunday,
November 22
after morning worship.
Lunch will not be served.

Why Jones Does Not Go To Church

1. The sermons are too long—*or* too short.
2. The music is too classical—*or* too simple.
3. The church is too hot—*or* too cold.
4. The weather is too stormy—*or* too beautiful.
5. The garden needs attention.
6. He has business at the farm—*or* in the city.
7. The chief usher is a hypocrite—*or* a nut.
8. He can worship God at home. (*But he doesn't*).
9. He has internet now, (*And greatly enjoys online research.*)
10. Any way, it's his own business, and he got enough religion when he was a boy, and he's as good as any church member.

—California Christian Advocate.

Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◆ Our church is going to enter a float in the Covington Christmas Parade. Because of Covid concerns, they are going to do a “reverse parade,” with the floats standing still and the people driving past in their cars to see them. We are having a meeting Sunday, November 22 after worship to begin putting ideas for our float together. Please join us if you are interested in helping.
- ◆ I am now getting back out in the community and am making some home visits. If you would like a visit, or know somebody who could use one, please let me know. My number is 434-738-8841.
- ◆ I would like to personally thank all of our soloists who have added to our worship experience. It has been different worshipping during these Covid times, and your voices have made a big difference. Thanks also to Kathy Crutchfield for coordinating these soloists, and of course to Beth Dreszer for her beautiful piano playing week after week.
- ◆ Thank you to our elders who have donned masks and served as our ushers during our reopening of worship. Your leadership and dedication is appreciation.
- ◆ As we celebrate Veterans Day, a big thank you goes to all those who have served in our armed forces. Your efforts and your sacrifice is greatly honored and appreciated!

Musical Minute:

I confess that Andy and I are dedicated “porch sitters.” Pretty much any evening that the weather is tolerable, from late winter to late fall, will find us spending time on our front porch. We’ve had such a beautiful Indian summer lately, that we’re still enjoying the warm late afternoons outside, listening to the insect sounds and the rustling of squirrels, turkeys and deer foraging for acorns in the fallen oak leaves until the sun sets and a chill begins to fall.



This time of year, I usually step out on the porch in the mornings to gauge the temperature and sweep up any wayward leaves or debris that might have blown in overnight. I’m often shocked by the violence that has occurred during the wee hours. There are red and brown spots and blots on the porch floor and little insect limbs scattered about—remnants of “granddaddy longlegs” spiders and katydids and the occasional stick insect, as remarkable in death as in life, lying in repose with his pin-like angular legs folded somberly over his thin little body. Andy recorded a katydid in slow motion on his phone a week or so ago. It was a marvelous feat of nature, all legs and elbows, crawling up a window on the southwest side of our house, perhaps looking for a safe place to overwinter or a peaceful place to expire. And then there are the ladybugs (or more accurately the Asian lady beetles), of course. They attempt home invasion every year at this time. These are the signs that fall has truly arrived no matter what the weather is trying to convince us.

This time of year, I find myself humming that iconic tune, “Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)” written by Pete Seeger and popularized by the folk rock group the Byrds. Although the order is slightly rearranged, the lyrics for the song are taken, almost word for word, from the book of Ecclesiastes, beginning with, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” While Seeger wrote the song in the late 1950s and it was recorded by a couple of other artists, it was the Byrds 1965 rendition that garnered international fame. If you don’t have an old recording, you can look it up on YouTube. It’s a true classic and a great way to while away an Indian summer afternoon!

Rock and roll, everybody! And take good care, too.

Beth