

McAllister Messenger

November 29, 2020

A Light In The Darkness

Pastor Jim Moss

It starts earlier every year. The Christmas commercials. The Christmas shows and movies. The Christmas decorations in stores and on houses. Before we even had a chance to celebrate Halloween, the signs of Christmas were already beginning to pop up in many places.

It all starts so early, that we run the risk of being sick and tired of the holidays before they ever really begin. By the time Thanksgiving is finished, we might have had enough of all the commercials and shows.

Which makes the observance of Advent all the more important. Advent is the season on the Christian calendar when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of our savior. We light candles. We pray. We look with longing for the light of Christ to come into the world.

This year, it seems like there is more darkness around us as we begin the season of Advent. We are facing the challenges of a pandemic, of economic hard times, and of political chaos and uncertainty. If we're not sick and tired of Christmas by this point, we are certainly sick and tired of the darkness that we face in the world.

So please join me in lighting a single candle for this first week of Advent. Because we need Christ. We need the light that he brings into our lives. We need to hear a message of comfort, joy, and peace. Let's not let the earliness of all the other Christmas stuff keep us from remembering the true reason for the season. And let's not let the challenges of our times keep us from looking for the light. For the light of the world is coming. Let us stand watch with patience and with hope!



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



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Covington, VA
Permit No. 67
Non-Profit Organization

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



The Monkey with The Wooden Apples

There once was a happy monkey wandering the jungle, eating delicious fruit when hungry, and resting when tired. One day he came upon a house, where he saw a bowl of the most beautiful apples. He took one in each hand and ran back into the forest.

He sniffed the apples and smelled nothing. He tried to eat them, but hurt his teeth. They were made of wood, but they were beautiful, and when the other monkeys saw them, he held onto them even tighter.

He admired his new possessions proudly as he wandered the jungle. They glistened red in the sun, and seemed perfect to him. He became so attached to them, that he didn't even notice his hunger at first.

A fruit tree reminded him, but he felt the apples in his hands.

He couldn't bear to set them down to reach for the fruit. In fact, he couldn't relax, either, if he was to defend his apples. A proud, but less happy monkey continued to walk along the forest trails.

The apples became heavier, and the poor little monkey thought about leaving them behind. He was tired, hungry, and he couldn't climb trees or collect fruit with his hands full. What if he just let go?

Letting go of such valuable things seemed crazy, but what else could he do? He was so tired. Seeing the next fruit tree, and smelling it's fruit was enough. He dropped the wooden apples and reached up for his meal. He was happy again.

Letting Go of Wooden Apples

Like that little monkey, we sometimes carry things that seem too valuable to let go. A man carries an image of himself as "productive" - carries it like a shiny wooden apple. But in reality, his busyness leaves him tired, and hungry for a better life. Still, letting go seems crazy. Even his worries are sacred apples - they prove he's "doing everything he can." He holds onto them compulsively.

This is a hard thing to see. We identify so strongly with our things even, feeling pain when our cars are dented. How much more powerfully will God identify us with our Faith & and God's commandments?? Have you obeyed them? but we have always searched after vain pleasures to make us happy, yet they don't always feed our souls, do they? And we become tired of defending them.

How else could the story end?

The monkey might be found dead of hunger, under a beautiful tree, with fruit within reach, but still grasping his wooden apples.

I chose to end it with him letting go, because only with open hands can we receive anything, Ask God & He will give you more greater riches.

[Author Unknown -- from 'E-Mail Ministry' (emailministry@emailministry.org)]

Prayer Concerns:

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

BRIAN CENTER—Andy Howell, 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	Carl Irvine	Charles Hall	Linda Bowling
	Richard Paitsel	Virgie Martin	Rev. Harold Keesee
	Columbus Shifflett	Lillian Pyne	Delories Riddlebarger
	Jim Tucker	Gary Showalter	Henry Smith
		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 ~ December 7 @ 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

Sympathy is extended to the family and loved ones of Carl "Pete" Irvine (*member*) who passed away on Sunday, November 22, 2020. He was preceded in dead by his wife, Wanda Jean Irvine on May 31 of this year. Funeral service will be Friday, November 27, 2020 at 11:00 AM in the chapel of Nicely Funeral Home.

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Edna Buffaloe by

Circle # 2

Gary and Delma Tingler

LECTIONARY

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

December

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rick Downer
- 2 Kevin Hudson
- 4 Mary Whitehead
- 5 Pat Bowling
Cooper Hill
- 7 Stacy Patterson
- 11 Debbie Bennett
- 15 Margaret Moss
- 18 Bob Bartley
- 20 Brett Smith
- 21 Ricky Cooke
- 22 Barbara Noel
- 24 Diane Hicks
Seth McKee
- 25 H. L. Wickham
- 28 Meghan Craft
- 29 Paul Crizer, Jr.
- 30 Gary Whitehead
- 31 Mason Bartley
Katie Riley Cline
Frank Sponaugle
Chris Whitehead

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Kevin & Rebecca Hudson
- 6 Ronnie & Janet Linkenhoker
- 16 Pat & Jennifer Markham
- 21 Gus & Becky Hayslett
- 22 Stephen & Sara Nicely
- 24 Berkley & Pam Key



Thanks for your Help!

On November 1, four young ladies traveled to the Greenbrier for our scheduled “wrap” session. They wrapped 200 gifts in less than two hours. Thanks to Carol Bush, Megan Plott, Reagan Paitsel and Marlene Faidley, McAllister Church qualified to receive our quota of gifts this year.

Way to Go Girls!



Thanks to those who stayed after worship on November 22 to put-up and decorate the Chrismon Tree in the sanctuary. The greenery still needs to be hung, so if you feel energetic and want to hang the greens, give us a call and we will have everything waiting for you.

Christmas Cheer Needs

- (2) Men’s small VT Hoodies
- (2) Men’s small Cowboy Hoodies
- Boy’s size 16 pants
- Boy’s size 10 Husky pants
- (2) packages men’s socks

1 Jan 3 2021

MY WEEKLY OFFERING FOR THE WORK OF CHRIST

GENERAL FUND - - - - - \$ _____	\$ _____ 2 cents A Meal / Food Sharing
BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND \$ _____	\$ _____ Weekday Religious Education
McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church 900 N. Alleghany Ave. Covington, Virginia 24426	\$ _____ Missionaries
	\$ _____ Other (Please specify below)

Name _____
"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows beautifully will also reap beautifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6. Printed by The Hubbard Press

Offering Envelopes for 2021 are ready for pick-up at the church or call the office to have them mailed to you.

My Creed

I do not fear to tread the path that
 those I love have long since trod;
 I do not fear to pass the gates and
 stand before the living God,
 In this world’s fight I’ve done my part
 —since God is God He knows it well.
 He will not turn His back on me and
 send me down to lowest hell;
 Because I have not prayed aloud and
 shouted in the market place.
 ‘Tis what we do, not what we say,
 that makes us worthy of His grace.

— Sel.



Musical Minute:

Driving home from church Sunday I reflected on how unique the upcoming holidays will be. Andy and I returned to Covington in 2010 after more than twenty years away. Our first Thanksgiving and Christmas were spent quietly with only mom, who was terminally ill, and brother Nick and my sister-in-law Cathy. Despite the circumstances, the holidays were notably joyful with just a tinge of bittersweet. Mom remained steadfastly, even stubbornly, resilient in her final days and managed to set a cheerful tone during her last year.

After losing her in June of 2011 we were invited to Roanoke to celebrate the Thanksgiving feast with my Uncle Jerry and Auntie Miki. Jerry is mom’s slightly older brother. Mom, Nick and Cath had been sharing the day with Jerry and Miki and their offspring and friends for years while we were abroad. As the holiday approached, I’ll admit that I was struck by a deep sadness. Mom and dad were gone as were both of Andy’s parents. Thanksgiving would never be the same again . . . When we arrived in Roanoke, I wasn’t eager to join the large gathering. Still—there we stood on the doorstep. Retreating was not an option. Upon entering we were enveloped with hugs, laughter, chatter, and enticing aromas. There were cousins, college friends of Nick and Cathy, school friends of mom and dad, and big, wonderful dogs. (Being dog lovers, Miki and Jerry had encouraged us to bring along our 105-pound Black Russian Terrier, Mila.) As the hours passed, I began to look at my new reality. It wasn’t so bad. In fact, it was quite delightful. Mom and dad weren’t physically present, but

they were there in the stories that were told and the love that was shown. It was almost as though they had prepared this for me in advance, and I suppose, in a way, they had. They spent years investing in the relationships that now provided a soft spot for me to land. I felt fortunate. I felt blessed. In the years since, thanks to Miki and Jerry’s generous hearts and their “the more the merrier” attitude, our celebration has come to include two of my college friends and dad’s youngest brother. Thanksgiving will be different this year. Andy and I will celebrate “out Potts Creek,” my cousins will remain in Colorado and New Jersey, both Coronavirus hotspots, and Nick and Cath will be with Miki and Jerry. All of the extended family and friends will remain safely at home. But our Thanksgiving circle will still exist. Even Covid-19 can’t stop it.

I saw a heartwarming segment on CBS news last week. A gentleman in Utah fell victim to the virus in October and was hospitalized and intubated, unable to speak. He wrote a note to his wife asking that she bring his violin to the hospital so that he might play something to thank the medical professionals for their excellent care. Seated on the side of his bed, dressed in a hospital gown and attached to all sorts of medical devices, he chose to play, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” Even in such dire circumstances, he felt blessed and thankful. What a beautiful hymn—what a man—and what spirit . . . No matter what your Thanksgiving plans entail, I hope that all of you can find cause to feel blessed and thankful.

Take good care and Happy Thanksgiving.

Beth