

# McAllister Messenger

January 10, 2021

## Notice:

**Because of concerns with the Covid-19 worship, in-person worship is cancelled for the time being. The Session will meet on February 7, 2021 to decide what we will do going forward. Please remember that we are broadcasting Sunday worship on Facebook Live at 11:00 a.m., as well as Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. We also have our five-minute Bible study each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook Live.**

## Worship Livestreaming

Those of you who watch our worship on Facebook Live have noticed a dramatic improvement in our broadcast quality lately. This is because we have gotten our special livestream broadcast up and running. No longer are we doing the broadcasts through the pastor's phone. In its place, we have a special livestream camera installed, as well as a computer, a couple of monitors, and special livestreaming software. We also have the capability of sending this livestream to the monitors in the Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen.

The Witness and Evangelism Committee expressed a vision for this livestreaming, and through the tireless efforts of Andy Dreszer, the broadcast has become a reality. We are looking for people who can be trained to manage the livestream broadcast on Sunday mornings. We will have a step-by-step guide published for how to do this. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Rev. Moss (434-738-8841). Thank you again to those who made this new outreach possible.

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



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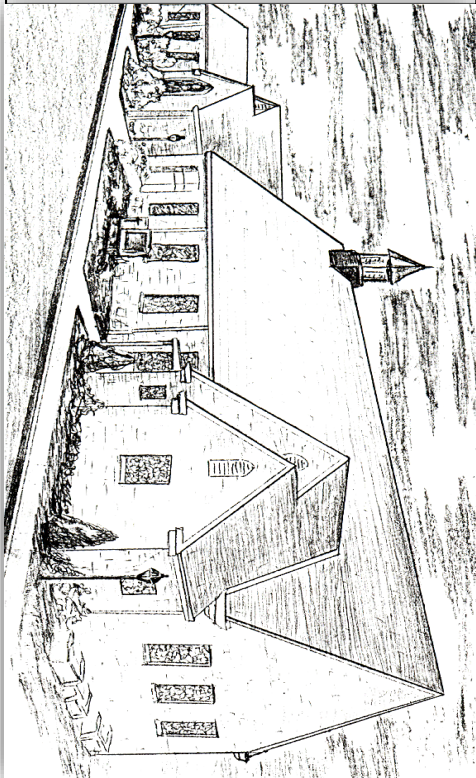
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# Reflections on the New Year

by Rev. Jim Moss

As I sit in front of my laptop computer trying to write this newsletter article, I find myself struggling with the words. What can be said that hasn't already been said? How many different ways can I relate the fact that we are in difficult times with this pandemic, but that we still have hope in the Lord? So I'll just say it again: We are in difficult times with this pandemic, but we still have hope in the Lord. And I'll point us toward Scripture that reminds of this.

Psalm 27 is not about a pandemic. King David is writing about the enemies who are attacking the nation of Israel. He says this: "Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident." Despite the danger that he faces, David has confidence that the Lord is with him. He says as much: "For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me."

As we face this enemy of the pandemic, we can assert the same confidence that the Lord is with us. And we can say the same thing that David says at the end of Psalm 27: "I believe that I shall see goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord!"

So let us do all the things that we can do to stay safe during these times: Staying home when possible, wearing a mask, washing our hands, and maintaining social distance. And let us take comfort in the words of King David. For God is with us, and we will get through this. And when we don't know what else to say, let us say what David said in the face of his enemies. It bears repeating: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

## Prayer Concerns:

Tillie Agnor	Joy Dodson	Pam Key	Carolyn Tolley
Roger Akers	Corky & Janice Downer	Sadie Landis	Darrell & Donna Tucker
Doc Altizer	Leslie Downer	Debi Leitch	Patsy Tucker
Randy Anderson	Priscilla Downer	George Leitch	Pete Turner
Jan Armentrout	Ernest Dressler	Susan Lindstrom	Buddy Vass
Grayson Asboth	Kaylee Elmore	Frankie Marshall	Thomas Wade
Sherry Ayers	Joyce Emerson	Pearl Miller	Danny Warlitner
Erskine Back	Lee & Lelia Fadley	Sonya Milton	Amanda Webb & family
Miki Ballengee	Jim & Barbara Flint	Doris Mottern	Dennis Whitehead
Bob & Leta Bartley	Marshall & Donna Fox	Patty Nicely	Pat & Larry Whitmer
Chuck & Jean Bartley	Nadine Fullen	Travis O'Rourke	Christy Wiley
Steve Bennett	Betty Gibson	Denise Pillow	Martha Wilhelm
Linda Bogar	Eddie Gibson	Billy Powell	Angie Wilkerson
Anita Boone	Robert & Gail Gibson	Teresa Powell	Donna Wilson
Doris Burley	Eugene & Lula Gilbert	Summer Pullin	Joe & Dot Wimer
Emily Byer	Carol Grady	Rev. Billy Price	Joey Wimer
Lee Cabaniss	Tom Greenwood	Betty Ray	Linda Payton Wolfe
Elwood Cadd	Evan Groves	Frank & April Reynolds	Buddy Young
Jean & Harry Casey	Don Hampton	Jim Reynolds	
Betsy Caul	Betty Harold	B. R. Rupert	<i>Caregivers</i>
Junior Clark	Richard & Cora Hastings	Pat Smith	<i>Covid—19 Patients</i>
Minnie Clark	Danny & Rhoda Hill	Monzell Sovereign	<i>Elected Officials</i>
Sandra Clemmons	Jason Hill and family	Angie Sponaugle	<i>Essential Workers</i>
Kenzie Cline	Connie Holloway	Natalie Sponaugle	<i>Non Believers</i>
Ricky Cooke	James Hoover	John Stec Family	<i>President Trump</i>
Steven Craft	Neil Horn	Sally Steele	<i>President Elect Biden</i>
Burnette Crawford	Shana Hotzapolous	Ruby Stull	<i>Prisoners</i>
Luke Crawford	Una Humphries	Rick & Susan Terrell	<i>U.S. Troops</i>
Monty & Janie Crawford	Lori Wolfe Isaacs	Bill Thompson	<i>Students/Teachers/WRE</i>
Chris Crutchfield	Charlie Jeffries	Ethan Thompson	
Clair Seckner Dilley	Wendell & Judy Jones	Marcy Thompson	
Randell Dilley	Susan Kennedy	Adena Tingler	

BRIAN CENTER—Andy Howell, Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull, Louise Whitehead

VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER—Roy Lee Reynolds

SCOTT HILL—David and Phyllis Lynn, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

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

### DEATHS

ReRe Bryant	Jimmy Crawford
Philip Cartwright	Lem Fitzgerald
Meredith Jennings, Jr.	Randy Gilbert
Joe Kerns	Norma Leech
Berkley Key	Gary Whitehead
Shirley Law	Maxine Williams
Matthew Menefee	
William Miller	
Rachel Craft Rock	
Sara Lu Snyder	
Barbara Warlitner	

### MILITARY

Kristen Bennett  
Richard Bray  
Kristopher Hoffman  
Ryan Pritts  
Chris Whitehead

### MISSIONARIES

Tom & Judy Harvey  
Esslinger/Lee

### Newsletter Information

Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone.

***(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ January 18 @ 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.

## Scriptures for This Time of Coronavirus

Here is a list of Scripture verses that can bring us comfort and hope during the difficult time of the coronavirus:

Psalm 23:4 – “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for thou art with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.”

Psalm 46:1 – “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Psalm 121:1-2 – “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.”

Psalm 130:7 – “O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.”

Isaiah 26:4 – “Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 – “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 11:17 – “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, shall live!”

Romans 5:3-5 – “And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that been given to us.”

Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

## January

### BIRTHDAY

- 3 Devin Tucker  
Becky Redman
- 4 Byron Faidley
- 5 Joyce Bartley
- 7 Brandon Rowan
- 9 Patsy Parker  
Deborah Rodgers  
Kinley Uzzell
- 10 Andrew Hill
- 13 Danny Hill  
Terry Thompson
- 14 Buddy Young  
Susan Givens
- 16 Tracie Wegman  
Kassie Young  
**Rev. Jim Moss**
- 19 Gaynell Parker  
Buzzy Riley
- 20 Terri Carper  
Leslie Downer  
Grady Haynes  
Gates Haynes
- 23 Shirley Thompson
- 26 Tamara Hill  
Evelyn Scruggs-Amos
- 28 Jean Bartley  
Carol Bush
- 31 Gavin Haynes

### ANNIVERSARY

- 5 Wayne & Diane Barksdale
- 14 Chuck & Jean Bartley
- 23 Tyson & Tara Uzzell
- 24 Bob & Leta Bartley

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

Matthew Menefee ~ *Pearl Miller’s brother*

Rachel Craft Rock ~ *aunt of Donna Walker & Steven Craft*

Barbara Warlitner ~ *aunt of Tarie Warlitner*

Philip Cartwright ~ *grandfather of Laura Young*

Berkley Key ~ *member and Elder*

## Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Carl & Jean Irvine by  
*Joe and Dot Wimer*

In memory of Maxine Williams by  
*Marshall and Donna Fox  
Bob and Leta Bartley*

In memory of Gary Whitehead by  
*Butch and Norma Curtin*

## Christmas Gifts

### In Honor

(Correction)

*Margaret Nicely Griffith,  
Callie Uzzell, & Kinley Uzzell*  
by Maria Necolau

### In Memory

*Stacey Nicole Gibson and  
Gerald W. Gibson, Sr.* by their family

*Family* by Ed Gibson

*Olen and Gladys Bennett* by  
Kevin and Rhonda Bennett  
Camilla and Johnsey Cabaniss

## Thank You Notes

We appreciate the pretty plaid throw and the strawberry jam delivered by “God’s Messengers,” Marlene and Jim Faidley. Thank you for remembering us.

May each one have a blessed New Year.

*Joe & Dot Wimer*

To: McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you so much for the Christmas gift you left for Mom.

She appreciates your thoughts of her.

God Bless,  
*Hallie  
Pat & Cindee*

# Musical Minute:

When it comes to ringing in the New Year, people tend to fall into two camps: those who do and those who don't. I am a longtime and dedicated participant in ushering in the New Year and I wouldn't dream of hitting the pillow until after midnight on December 31 of any given year. I think that I inherited this trait from my parents and I feel fortunate to have married a fellow "ringer in-er" (whom, I believe, also inherited this from his parents). (There are others in my immediate family, who for safety reasons and fear of disparaging remarks, I will not name. They just go to bed . . . Who does that?!) Andy and I have been celebrating the New Year together since we began dating in 1985 and we are committed to continuing the tradition. Admittedly, over the last two or three years, we have made a pact around nine o'clock in the evening on New Year's Eve, that the one who is not asleep will wake up the other before the clock strikes midnight! I am pleased to report that neither of us needed to be awakened this year. We paced our festivities and food just perfectly and when the lull began to set in, we simply called, FaceTimed, and texted nearby family and friends overseas! There's nothing like harassing your loved ones to keep you awake.

Certainly New Year's Eve is a time for nostalgia and it can be bittersweet. However, reflection, introspection, and a good cry over loved ones lost, whether parents, grandparents, friends, a partner, siblings, pets or missed opportunities, is often necessary and can be cleansing for the coming year. Maybe it's my nature, or maybe my naivety, but to me a new year has always been full of such promise. Other than a few expert epidemiologists, I'm not sure that any of us could have guessed what 2020 would hold, but in my experience, a new year usually holds more positives than negatives and often holds fresh opportunities for learning and growth.

Andy and I were married in December of 1987 and in the decades since when celebrating our anniversary we have tried to remember what exactly we talked about on our honeymoon. Papa's death in May of that year would have loomed large, of course, as would my impending mid-year employment as an english teacher at Bath County High School, a job offer that came suddenly and cut short our

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honeymoon. (I was introduced as Miss Leitch to the 8th, 9th and 10th graders in early December only to return, I think on the 17th, as Mrs. Dreszer. Oh—the comments from the kids, “We know what you did last weekend!!!”) In December of 1987 we thought we knew our path for the future, at least for the short term. But, in fact, we had no idea —no idea that we would be moving to Richmond, Va. in less than a year. And during our years in Richmond, we could have scarce believed that 1994 would take us to the Czech Republic, or that after celebrating the millennium in our little town in the Czech Republic, 2001 would find us moving to Austria and that 2010 would see me leaving my dear husband and our beloved Black Russian Terrier in Europe to come home to be with mom, Nick and Cathy after mom's cancer diagnosis. Each year offers up unique surprises and changes, and sometimes, as in 2020, the challenges and pain can seem insurmountable. But the promise of every new year lies not so much within the year, but within the indefatigable human spirit, a spirit made stronger by faith and community.

I wanted to play a few secular pieces for you guys on the piano in the sanctuary to post on Facebook on New Year's Eve. I chose several of my favorites with a positive outlook and lyrics, but I finally decided that after such a trying year, I didn't want to appear flippant about what so many endured throughout 2020. My list included “Count Your Blessings” from the perennial favorite holiday film “White Christmas.” Written by Irving Berlin, the song is beautifully sung by Bing Crosby in his warm, resonant baritone to Rosemary Clooney. If you've never heard or seen it, it's well worth looking up on YouTube. The lyrics to the chorus are simple and pretty much perfect:

“If you're worried and you can't sleep  
Just count your blessings instead of sheep  
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.”

So here's to you, McAllister family. I wish you a hopeful and healthy 2021 full of more blessings than you can count.

Take good care.

Beth