

McAllister Messenger

January 24, 2021

A Word From Your Pastor: Unexpected Beauty

On a recent morning, we all woke up to a surprise. It had snowed! Although not predicted, about half an inch of snow had fallen in the late night and early morning hours. The result was a beautiful blanket of white draped over the ground. It truly was an unexpected source of beauty that brightened my morning and likely brightened yours as well.

This unexpected snowfall reminds us of how God's grace often works. It surprises us. It happens in unpredicted ways. It catches us off guard and brightens our day. The love of God reaches us in many ways, but perhaps it is most joyful and satisfying when it comes like an unexpected overnight snowfall. We simply open our eyes one morning and see the beauty of it all around us.

We are living through some times when we need to see some unexpected beauty from God. If we turn on the news, things just seem to be getting worse with the multiple crises that our nation finds itself in. It can be easy to give in to despair, to lose hope in the fact that God is still with us, and that God's grace is still in effect. It can be hard to know that God's love still surrounds us like a blanket of unpredicted snowfall.

One way to make sure that we don't lose hope during these difficult times is to express our gratitude for the beauty that we do see. Whether it is an unexpected snowfall, or a beautiful sunset, or perhaps a kind word from a friend or family member – if we can express our gratitude for the many small ways in which God reaches us, we can maintain hope for the large ways that God is still with us. Our little expressions of thanks help us to maintain faith in the great gifts of forgiveness and salvation that we receive in Jesus Christ.

So let us keep our eyes open for those moments of unexpected beauty, and let us remember to give thanks for all that the Lord has done and will do for us.

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



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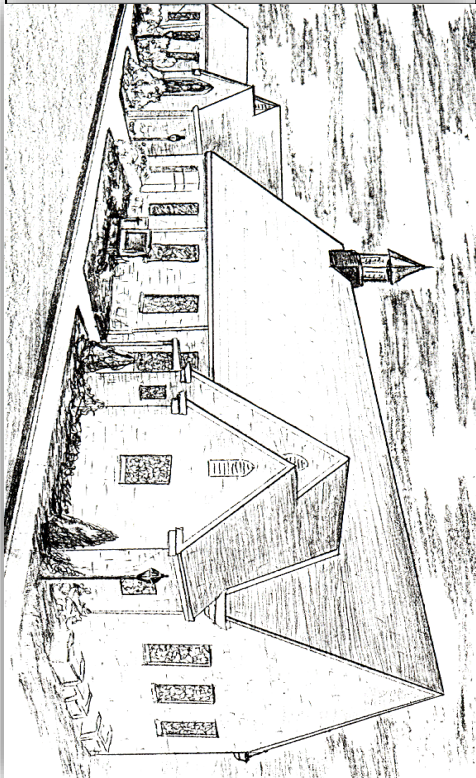
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Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

Email—revjimmos95@gmail.com



Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◆ Because of ongoing concerns over Covid-19, I am not doing in-person visits at this time. I am available for visitation by phone. If you would like to talk or just say “hello,” please feel free to call me at 434-738-8841.
- ◆ With so many suffering from Covid-19 at this time, our prayer list is extensive. But there is always room for more! Please feel free to call the church office or to call me directly with your names for the prayer list. You can also post prayer concerns on the church Facebook page. There is a post put up each Sunday to collect prayer requests.
- ◆ Please be in prayer for both President Trump and President Biden as this transfer of power is being made. Our nation needs our prayers for peace, hope, and healing during a time of conflict.

The following is a prayer from our Presbyterian Book of Common Worship. It was written by Woodrow Wilson and is a good one to say during this time of national difficulty:

*Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth,
 Forgive, we pray, our shortcomings as a nation;
 Purify our hearts to see and love truth;
 Give wisdom to our counselors
 And steadfastness to our people;
 And bring us at last to the fair city of peace,
 Whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill,
 And whose builder and maker you are;
 Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

January BIRTHDAY

- 26 Tamara Hill
Evelyn Scruggs-Amos
- 28 Jean Bartley
Carol Bush
- 31 Gavin Haynes

ANNIVERSARY

- 24 Bob & Leta Bartley

February BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jerry Ray Taylor
- 2 Tyson Uzzell
- Payson Bennett Riley
- 3 Kelley Tingler
- 4 Paul Linkenhoker
- 6 Betty Gibson
- Julia Bryant
- 8 Pat Whitmer
- Summit Caul
- 9 Amanda Webb
- 10 Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
- Mason Hale
- 13 Adam Tingler
- 16 B. R. Rupert
- 17 Gerald Gibson, Jr.
- 20 Bobby Rice
- Chad Thompson
- 21 Tonya Jones
- 22 Dorothy Thompson
- 23 Craig Poague
- Brittany Young-Baker
- 27 Sandy Persinger

Anniversaries

- 10 Dorothy & Terry Thompson
- 15 Joe & Dot Wimer

Prayer Concerns:

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

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

VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER—Roy Lee Reynolds PHEASANT RIDGE: Sadie Landis

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

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

DEATHS

Bernard Bowling	ReRe Bryant
Debbie Bozes	Philip Cartwright
Ernest Dressler	Meredith Jennings, Jr.
Barbara Hayse	Joe Kerns
Arnetta Hicks	Berkley Key
Coyd Kimberlin	Shirley Law
Wayne Ogden	Matthew Menefee
Richard Pleasant	William Miller
Robert Smith	Rachel Craft Rock
	Sara Lu Snyder
	Barbara Warlitrer

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 ~ February 1 @ 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.

2020 Highlands Christmas Mother says Thank You

Dear McAllister Church Family,

I want to thank you for your support of the Highlands Christmas Mother Program. The money you generously donated will bring Love and Joy to the many families we served.

We had 403 families in our program this year. The first toy requested of the children under 12 was honored if possible. The children also received a new outfit along with socks and underwear. Santa left them a pillowcase (hand made by local quilters) filled with stocking stuffers,

The teenagers were given a string bag filled with things they would use. They also received a letter from me. Their bag included information about opportunities at DSLCC, information about the HPV vaccine, and some information from the military. I believe our teenagers are very important to our community and our nation. They are our leaders.

Each household received a requested item and a bag of cleaning supplies. A food card to a local grocery store was given to each family. We did not buy and pack food this year because of Covid-19 restrictions.

The Christmas Mother Program greatly appreciated your contribution. You made Christmas for these families because of your kindness. As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, When you do it for the least of them you do it unto me.

May God richly bless you and your church family in the coming year. Thank You again.

In Christian love,

Brenda Linkenhoker

2020 Highlands Christmas Mother



Service Notice

The Session has cancelled in-person worship for the time being. They will meet on February 7 to decide what we will do going forward. Please remember that we have the following virtual programming being broadcast on Facebook: Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday and Worship at 11:00 a.m. We have a new feature: the Youth Lesson which is done by Margaret and Jim Moss. It is pre-recorded and posted to the church Facebook page on late Sunday afternoon or early evening. Finally, there is the “Five-Minute Bible Study” which is done on Facebook Live at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

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

Richard Pleasant ~ *member*

Bernard Bowling ~ *brother of Aubrey Bowling*

Arnetta Tingler Hicks ~ *grandmother of Brad and Holly Hicks*

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Berkley Key by

Jerry and Darlene Taylor

Bob and Leta Bartley

Howard and Pam Poague

Joe and Pat Martin

Chuck and Jean Bartley

Buddy and Margie Young

Joe and Dot Wimer

Marshall and Donna Fox

Ellen and Bill Elliott

Elmore, Hupp & Company

In memory of Maxine Williams by

Joe and Pat Martin

Chuck and Jean Bartley

Joe and Dot Wimer

In memory of Barbara Warlitner by

Jerry and Darlene Taylor

In honor of

Beth and Andy Dreszer
Pastor Jim Moss & family

by *Joe and Dot Wimer*

Thank You Notes

To McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift you left me. *Joyce Bartley*

Thank you so much for your thoughts, kind words and prayers during Gordon's cancer journey. For the food and household items delivered last year and this year through your Christmas Cheer program.

Thank you for the prayers and love shown to our family during Gordon's passing.

I am so thankful for your kindness. May God Bless each of you for your kindness. *Love in Christ,*

Bertha Hosey

Christmas Gift—*In Memory*

Arnold, Sr. and Phoebe Hostetter

Arnold Hostetter, Jr.

Thelma Hostetter Wilkosz

Richard Worrell

by *Bob and Vicki Gerow*



Musical Minute:

Many of us have had people in our lives who, in addition to our immediate family, helped to shape and raise us. During our 22 years away, I was always touched when I visited Covington to experience such heartfelt welcome and interest in my life from mom and dad's friends and acquaintances when we happened to cross paths in town. There can be no doubt that, next to your own folks, the close friends of your parents are your best champions. They were often right alongside your parents through the joys and concerns of your birth, your high school years, dubious dating choices, and the eventual choice of your career or life partner, and are therefore very much personally vested in your health and success.

My Covington "circle of elders" was reliably rock solid throughout my entire life. These were the people I could count on and they were the people, along with my family, that I wanted to make proud. Over the last ten years or so, however, my solid rock has begun to erode. It's like looking at a map of the world where you've long known the individual nations and boundaries, and suddenly pieces of it begin to disappear. The borders are changing, and it's disorienting and unnerving.

All of which is a protracted way of saying that I lost a dear member of my circle recently. Sara Lu Persinger Snyder was a longtime and cherished friend of my parents, having graduated from Covington High School with both of them in 1955. With her husband Jim she raised two remarkable sons and her contributions to our community were numerous, meaningful, and of lasting impact. The same can be said of her influence on my life. As I entered my high school and college years, Sara Lu was one of my loudest cheerleaders, whether in matters academic or musical. She was my go-to person for all matters of etiquette before such things could easily be found online: How does one respond to a formal dinner invitation? (Promptly, in writing, and cordially!) When writing on a notecard is it acceptable to write on the back of the card, or should one continue on the left side of the open card? (If your message requires more space than the right side of the open notecard, it is preferable to write on the back of the card rather than on the reverse side of the front cover.) What is the appropriate ink color for a thank you note? (Preferably blue or black, as they are the most legible, but the most important factor is that the message is personalized, prompt and handwritten, not typed—unless your writing hand is incapacitated!).

Sara Lu was an accomplished musician and substituted at McAllister many times over the years. She had played for papa to sing since they were in high school. I am blessed to have several of her organ scores in my collection and will now treasure them all the more. She always appeared to me calm and unflappable, traits that I wish she could have passed on to me along with the etiquette tips! I always found it at odds with Sara Lu's natural organizational skills and her love of order that she was a devoted dog lover and owner. Our canine friends are the very antithesis of order! And yet, that is who she was.

After Andrew and I decided to wed, we set down with family to begin planning the event. Sara Lu quickly became the obvious choice to be our wedding coordinator, or "Coordinator of Glorious Affairs" as I titled her in my somewhat formal, prompt and handwritten note requesting that she direct our wedding! She responded with the following within the week (promptly), on ecru stationary (classic), in blue ink (highly legible), beautifully handwritten (of course) and with love, graciousness, and charity (100% Sara Lu).

"Ode to the Fair December Bride

Having received your most clear note,
I'm decidedly flattered by the family's vote.

With no experience in so exalted a position,
I would not have expected such rare recognition.

Accepting the honor with trepidation and fear,
I'll serve with pleasure because it's you, my dear.

I'll read and study to be up-to-date,
So that all goes well for you and your mate.

Advised by Emily, Amy, and Miss Manners, I hope
To learn all matters essential to cope.

Call the job whatever you may,
It will give me joy to share your day."

Sara Lu's deep and lasting friendship with my parents became even more significant with dad's sudden death in May of 1987, barely a month after she had responded with her "Ode," and just seven months before Andrew's and my wedding in December. After visitation at the funeral home, she shared with mom, in the way that only a friend of decades could, that she wished she had kept her mother's rings when her mother passed away so that she could have given them to her sons to give to their future partners. It was a terribly difficult decision for mom to make, but thanks to that uncomfortable conversation (and with generous assistance from another beloved friend, Arnold Hostetter), the wedding bands that Andy and I wear are made from dad's gold band. And Sara Lu's dedication to their friendship didn't end there. I discovered many years later that following dad's death, she called my mother every single morning for months and months. Mom knew that whether she felt like it or not, she had better answer the phone or Sara Lu would be on her doorstep. She was steadfast in her friendship to mom through subsequent years and was a steady, unwavering source of support to mom, and to Nick and me, during mom's final year. She was quite a lady, and I do mean "lady," and I will miss her. The borders on my map are changing, and it is disorienting. Yet I know where they once were and I can still imagine them there, and I can always remember how they shaped my world.

Take good care.

Beth