

McAllister Messenger

May 2, 2021

A Word From Your Pastor The Joy of Forgiveness

My older son Benjamin is going in a week or so to get his learner's permit. It is hard to believe that he is old enough to drive. The occasion made me remember something that happened to me when I first got my driver's license.

I think it was the day after I passed the test and got that coveted license. I finally had freedom! I was able to drive over to a friend's house one evening. I had strict instructions from my parents to be home by 9:00. The problem was that I left my friend's house at 8:55, and it was about a seven-minute drive home.

I was pushing my speed as I sped out of his neighborhood. As I made a left turn, I noticed those dreaded blue lights in my mirror. My heart stopped. I could not believe that I was getting pulled over, and worse yet that I might be getting a speeding ticket.

I was very nervous when the policeman came to my window. Fortunately for me, he must have seen how scared I was. He let me go with just a warning. As he walked back to his car and I pulled out very slowly, I could feel the blood returning to my face. I also felt a little bit of joy. How lucky I was not to have gotten a ticket, and not to have had to face my parents. As I drove home, I felt a great sense of gratitude to that policeman, who had provided me with that joyful moment of forgiveness.

This is the kind of joy that we feel knowing that we have been forgiven by God. Because Christ died on the cross, and because he rose from the dead, we have been forgiven for our sin. This is a gift that is much greater than what I received from that lenient policeman. Therefore, our joy over receiving forgiveness in Christ should be much greater than what I felt when I got pulled over that evening.

As we continue through this Easter season, let us continue to feel the joy of forgiveness. Let us give thanks and give praise to God for the great gift of mercy that we have received!

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Notes From Pastor Jim

1. Because I have been vaccinated, I am now getting back out in the community and making visits. If you would like a visit, or know someone who could use one, please give me a call. (434-738-8841)
2. The Session has decided that we will start back with Sunday school on June 6. The adults will all meet together in the Fellowship Hall, and the youth and children will all meet together in the large classroom downstairs (The 1st and 2nd grade and 3rd through 5th grade rooms. We will open up the dividers between these rooms and have one large room where the students can social distance.)
3. The Presbytery is hosting a special seminar by Zoom on Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00 am. The topic is "Covid: Lessons Learned and Finding a Way Forward." It will focus on how churches can adapt and be innovative as we transition out of this pandemic time. If you would like to participate, please let me know. (434-738-8841)

*Success is like falling off a log;
You can't always explain exactly
how it happened.*



May Birthdays

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3rd | Zak Nida
Carter Hudson |
| 5th | Erik Young
David Sponaugle |
| 6th | Angie Poague |
| 8th | Jeri O'Rourke |
| 9th | Doris Mottern |
| 11th | Gina Tingler |
| 13th | Carole Lemon |
| 14th | Jerry Whitehead
Darlene Thompson
Eric Webb |
| 15th | Van Walker
Rachel Reynolds |
| 16th | James Bush, Sr.
Maggie Webb |
| 17th | Butch Curtin
Lee Fadley |
| 19th | Amelia Nicely |
| 21st | Shirley Ferris |
| 22nd | Jenni Hinton |
| 23rd | Brenda Walker |
| 24th | Dwain Tyree
Gary Walker |
| 25th | Jacob Downer |
| 26th | Ruth Caul
Bunny King |
| 28th | Gus Hayslett
Jenny Crawford |

May Anniversaries

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 6th | Steven & Donna Craft |
| 11th | Butch & Norma Curtin |
| 22nd | Amanda & Eric Webb |
| 30th | Cody & Katie Nida |

Prayer Concerns:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Tillie Agnor
Mildred Akers
Evelyn Scruggs Amos
Hershel Andrews
Jan Armentrout
Mary Austin
Erskine Back
Miki Ballengee
Bob & Leta Bartley
Chuck & Jean Bartley
Steve Bennett
Linda Bogar
Anita Boone
Sue Burns
Emily Byer
Elwood Cadd
Benny Capps
Jean & Harry Casey
Betsy Caul
Junior Clark
Minnie Clark
Sandra Clemmons
Kenzie Cline
Ricky Cooke
Steven Craft
Luke Crawford
Kathy Crutchfield
Corky & Janice Downer
Leslie Downer
Priscilla Downer
Kaylee Elmore
Joyce Emerson | Lee & Lelia Fadley
Barbara Flint
Marshall & Donna Fox
Calvin Fridley
Thomas Fridley
Betty Gibson
Eddie Gibson
Robert & Gail Gibson
Carol Grady
Teresa Griffith
Evan Groves
Scott Hamilton
Don Hampton
Richard & Cora Hastings
Danny & Rhoda Hill
Sandra Hill
Connie Holloway
James Hoover
Neil Horn
Shana Hotzapolous
Lori Wolfe Isaacs
Charlie Jeffries
Wendell & Judy Jones
Susan Kennedy
Mary Kern
Pam Key
Richard Law
Tammy Law
Debi Leitch
George Leitch
Susan Lindstrom
Jackson Lowe (age 7 ~ cancer) | Jennifer Markham
Mike & Kathy McCauley
Dr. Calvin McClinton
Pearl Miller
Sonya Milton
Priscilla Moncus
Doris Mottern
Patty Nicely
Travis O'Rourke
Berkley & Joyce Persinger
Billy Powell
Teresa Powell
Paula Pruitt
Betty Ray
Frank & April Reynolds
Jim Reynolds
B. R. Rupert
Sheldon Shue
Libby Simpson
Pat Smith
Monzell Sovereign
Angie Sponaugle
Matt Sponaugle
Natalie Sponaugle
Sally Steele
Pat Tacy
Susan Terrell
Ethan Thompson
Marcy Thompson
Adena Tingler
Carolyn Tolley
Darrell & Donna Tucker | Pete Turner
Buddy Vass
Danny Warlitter
Sandra Watson
Dennis Whitehead
Pat & Larry Whitmer
Christy Wiley
Martha Wilhelm
Donna Wilson
Dot Wimer
Joey Wimer
Linda Payton Wolfe
Ray "Lumpy" Worley
Buddy Young
Kassie Young |
|--|--|---|---|

*Our Nation
Caregivers
Covid-19 Patients
Elected Officials
Essential Workers
Non Believers
President Biden
Prisoners
U.S. Troops
Students/Teachers
WRE*



BRIAN CENTER—Andy Howell, Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull

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, Frankie Marshall, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock

DEATHS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Brenda Ledford
Alberta Pritt
Larry Scott | Noah Green
Jerry Judy
Eileen Rickett
Ed Thompson
Jerry Vess |
|--|---|

New Address:

Luke Crawford #1663392
Augusta Correctional Center
1821 Estaline Valley Road
Craigsville, VA 24430

MILITARY

- Kristen Bennett
Kristopher Hoffman
Ryan Pritt
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 ~ May 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.



Easter Gift

In loving memory of
FRANK AND ETHEL SPONAUGLE
DAVID AND BOBBIE REYNOLDS
BUCK AND KAY RAY

by
The Frank and Susan Sponaugle Family
& Amy Ray

IN THE MONTH OF MAY

- National Day of Prayer May 6
- May Friendship Day May 7
- Fair Trade Day May 8
- Mother's Day May 9
- ASCENSION OF THE LORD May 13
- DAY OF PENTECOST May 23
- Memorial Day May 31



Musical Minute:

Upon moving to the Czech Republic in 1994, one of the first gifts I received from a new Czech acquaintance was an elegant, emerald green vase. Wide at the bottom and top with a cinched “waist,” it was embellished with three hand-painted white flowers with a gold rim encircling the top lip. If you collect glass of any kind, you probably frequent auctions or antique shops or antique malls and are familiar with the term “Czech glass.” Czech glass or crystal usually has some “heft” and can be simple and unadorned, but more often it is associated with rich, jewel tones and plentiful engraving, etching or cut-work, and hand-painted motifs. The vase I was given was a lovely surprise—a delicate and beautiful example of Czech craftsmanship, and a thoughtful token of a new, and as it turns out, lasting friendship. But this vase was tiny—measuring just over 3 inches tall, 1 1/2 inches wide at the bottom, 2 inches at the top, and holding only two ounces of water. Surely it was meant as a decoration—something to sit on a bookshelf or tabletop.

Then came the following spring . . . My neighbor’s visiting daughters brought over the most elegant bouquet—abundant, colorful, and artfully arranged, it was composed of fragrant lily of the valley blossoms, a few wild violets plucked from the yard around the garden, and bright green blades of grass bundled with a strand of chive. It was striking in its simplicity, and it stood about five inches tall! Whatever to put it in? A water glass was too clunky, a bud vase too narrow. It all became clear . . . The little emerald green vase with the gold rim was meant for this bouquet! Over the next few weeks, I encountered people of all ages selling petite bundles of lilies of the valley outside of shops and other venues. Even in the larger cities, these aromatic bundles were a steal for only 20 or 30 cents each. My friend knew before I did that I would need this dainty vase!

Coming up our driveway the other day, I noticed the native bluets in bloom alongside the ditch where the water is running after the recent rains. The diminutive bluets will show up perfectly in my little green vase. I’ve even got chives in the vegetable garden to tie up a small bundle. And I’ll remember my first spring in the Czech Republic and my dear friend, Eva, who helped me to feel at home there. I wish you all a beautiful spring season filled with memories of loving friends and fragrant springs past.

Take good care.

Beth

Memorials

In memory of Joseph A. Wimer, Sr. by
Robert and Bebe Marshall

In memory of Berkley Miller Key by
Frank and Susan Sponaugle

In memory of Ruby Louise Whitehead by
Frank and Susan Sponaugle

In memory of Barbara Warlitner’s
Birthday ~ April 19 ~ by
Howard and Pam Poague



Graduates

Our graduates from high school and college will be honored in the May 30 newsletter.

If you are graduating or know someone who is, please contact the church office by mail, phone or email no later than Monday, May 24 with your bio information.

Scholarship Applications



Scott Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. Any member of McAllister Church attending college in 2021 may apply. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2021.



Vacation ~ The secretary, Janet Linkenhoker, will be on vacation Monday, May 3 thru Friday, May 7.

The Price of a Child

The government recently calculated the cost of raising child from birth to 18 and came up with \$233,610 for a middle-income family. Talk about sticker shock. That doesn't even touch college tuition. For those with kids, that figure leads to wild fantasies about all the things we could have bought, all the places we could have traveled, all the money we could have banked if not for (insert child's name here). For others, that number might confirm the decision to remain childless.

But \$233,610 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into \$12,978.34 a year, \$1,081.53 a month or \$249.58 a week. That's a mere \$35.65 a day. Just under \$1.50 an hour. Still, you might think the best financial advice says don't have children if you want to be rich. It's just the opposite.

There's no way to put a price tag on:

- Feeling a new life move for the first time and seeing the bump of a knee rippling across your skin.
- Having someone cry, "It's a boy!" or shout, "It's a girl!" then hearing the baby wail and knowing all that matters is it's healthy.
- Counting all 10 fingers and toes for the first time.
- Feeling the warmth of fat cheeks against your breast.
- Cupping an entire head in the palm of your hand.
- Making out da da or ma ma from all the cooing and gurgling.

What do you get for your \$233,610?

- Naming rights. First, middle and last.
- Glimpses of God every day.
- Giggles under the covers every night.
- More love than your heart can hold.
- Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds and warm cookies.

- A hand to hold, usually covered with jam.
- A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, building sand castles and skipping down the sidewalk in the pouring rain.
- Someone to laugh yourself silly with no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$233,610, You never have to grow up. You get to finger paint, carve pumpkins, play hide-and-seek, catch lightning bugs and never stop believing in Santa Claus. You have an excuse to keep reading the adventures of Piglet and Pooh, watching Saturday morning cartoons, going to Disney movies and wishing on stars.

You get to frame rainbows, hearts and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, hand prints set in clay for Mother's Day and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

For \$160,140, there's no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof, taking the training wheels off the bike, removing a sliver, filling the wading pool, coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat to history to witness the first step, first word, first bra, first date, first time behind the wheel. You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren.

You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communications and human sexuality no college can match. In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there with God. You have the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost.