

McAllister Messenger

June 13, 2021

A Word From Your Pastor Creatures Of Habit

Human beings are creatures of habit. We like to have routine in our lives. We like for things to be predictable and the same.

This is true of our personal lives. We usually wake up at around the same time each day. We like to eat the same thing for breakfast. Sometimes we even fall into the routine of wearing the same outfit on the same day of each week. These routines are comfortable. They give a sense of normalcy, which helps us deal with life when things get unpredictable and chaotic.

We also like routine in our faith lives. Whether it's doing some Scripture reading and prayer at the same time each morning; or coming to Sunday school and church and church at the same time each week; or sitting in the same pew at worship – we also find comfort in doing things at the same time and in the same way when it comes to spiritual matters.

One thing the Covid-19 situation has done is to throw us out of many of our habits and routines. This is especially true when it comes to church. All of a sudden, we were not getting up each Sunday morning and going to Sunday school and worship. Instead, we were staying home and gathering around a screen for virtual livestreaming Sunday school and worship. We have also gotten used to not having youth meetings or circle gatherings. I guess you could say we developed a set of new habits and routines, as we dealt with the inability to gather together as a church community.

Now that the Covid crisis is lessening, and most of us have gotten vaccinated, we are getting back to some of our old habits. We are once again gathering for Sunday school and worship at the church building. But as we →



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BULK RATE
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June Birthdays

- 14th Jennifer Horn Lodge
Eric Webb
David Keith
- 15th Hayli Givens
- 16th Maggie Webb
- 18th Howard Poague
- 19th Marlene Faidley
- 20th Robert Boone
- 21st Ed Gibson
- 23rd Maddox Hale
- 24th Tarie Warlitner
Katie Gibson
- 25th Leta Bartley
Wayne Barksdale
Linda Wickham
- 27th Aubrey Bowling
Silas Riley
- 28th Donna Tucker
- 30th Anita Boone
Jeff Horn



Anniversaries

- 14th Danny & Rhoda Hill
- 21st Frank & Susan Sponaugle
Gary & Beverly Bishop
- 29th Buddy & Margie Young

...Continued

open up again, we are finding some of our new habits hard to break. We have gotten used to worship in our living room, on a screen, while wearing pajamas. We have gotten used to not having youth group or circle meetings. Many of us have not gotten back into the old habits. We are sticking with the new ones.

This is one of the challenges that face us in this emerging post-Covid era. Some of us still have good reason not to come to in-person worship or Sunday school. For some of us, continuing to watch the livestream is the right course of action. But some of us have simply gotten out of the habit of coming, and need to find the motivation to get back into the old habit. I encourage each of you to consider the habit you find yourself in now, and to be sure that you are keeping that routine for the right reasons. We look forward to the day when we can see everyone back in church!

With Deepest Sympathy

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

Louella Boone Porterfield
 aunt of Robert Boone

Clarence "Chip" Farmer, Jr.
 cousin of Leta Bartley

Prayer Concerns:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tillie Agnor | Lee & Lelia Fadley | David Lynn | Buddy Vass |
| Mildred Akers | Barbara Flint | Becky Mann | Danny Warlitner |
| Evelyn Scruggs Amos | Marshall & Donna Fox | Jennifer Markham | Sandra Watson |
| Hershel Andrews | Sandra Angell Francis | Mike & Kathy McCauley | Dennis Whitehead |
| Jan Armentrout | Thomas Fridley | Pearl Miller | Pat & Larry Whitmer |
| Mary Austin | Betty Gibson | Sonya Milton | Shirley Wickline |
| Erskine Back | Eddie Gibson | Priscilla Moncus | Christy Wiley |
| Miki Ballengee | Robert & Gail Gibson | Bucky & Doris Mottern | Martha Wilhelm |
| Bob & Leta Bartley | Carol Grady | Lydia Nicely | Megan Williams |
| Linda Bogar | Teresa Griffith | Travis O'Rourke | Donnie Williamson |
| Anita Boone | Evan Groves | Berkley & Joyce Persinger | Donna Wilson |
| Stacey Bryant | Scott Hamilton | Billy Powell | Dot Wimer |
| Sue Burns | Don Hampton | Teresa Powell | Joey Wimer |
| Emily Byer | Richard & Cora Hastings | Paula Pruitt | Linda Payton Wolfe |
| Elwood Cadd | Danny & Rhoda Hill | Betty Ray | Marlene Bogar Wolfe |
| Benny Capps | Sandra Hill | Bryan Renolds & family | Chuck Woodson |
| Jean & Harry Casey | Robert "Buzzy" Hoke, Jr. | Frank & April Reynolds | Ray "Lumpy" Worley |
| Betsy Caul | Connie Holloway | Jim Reynolds | Connie Wright |
| Anne Chalker | James Hoover | Carolyn Ross | Buddy & Margie Young |
| Junior Clark | Neil Horn | B. R. Rupert | Kassie Young |
| Minnie Clark | Shana Hotzapolous | Shelldon Shue | |
| Sandra Clemmons | Lori Wolfe Isaacs | Monzell Sovereign | <i>Our Nation</i> |
| Kenzie Cline | Charlie Jeffries | Angie Sponaugle | <i>Caregivers</i> |
| Ricky Cooke | Wendell & Judy Jones | Matt Sponaugle | <i>Covid—19 Patients</i> |
| Donna & Steven Craft | Susan Kennedy | Natalie Sponaugle | <i>Elected Officials</i> |
| Luke Crawford | Mary Kern | Pat Tacy | <i>Essential Workers</i> |
| Pat Cabaniss Davis | Pam Key | Susan Terrell | <i>Non Believers</i> |
| Katherine Dobbins | Richard & Tammy Law | Ethan & Marcy Thompson | <i>President Biden</i> |
| Corky & Janice Downer | Debi Leitch | Adena Tingler | <i>Prisoners</i> |
| Leslie Downer | George Leitch | Carolyn Tolley | <i>U.S. Troops</i> |
| Priscilla Downer | Susan Lindstrom | Darrell & Donna Tucker | <i>Students/Teachers/WRE</i> |
| Kaylee Elmore | Dianne Lockhart | Michael Tucker | |
| Joyce Emerson | Jackson Lowe (age 7 ~ cancer) | Pete Turner | |

BRIAN CENTER—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, Andy Howell, Frankie Marshall, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock



DEATHS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Kolin Bennett | Victor Cucci |
| Glen Comer | Marvin Faudree |
| Wanda Carr Craft | Chanda Higgins |
| Chip Farmer | Dr. Calvin McClinton |
| Andy Gann | Robert Paitsel |
| Kevin Rickett, Sr. | Sally Steele |
| | Gladys Mae Tingler |

MILITARY

- Kristen Bennett
- 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 the next newsletter is Monday ~ June 21 @ 4 p.m.)



Notes From Pastor Jim

- ⇒ We are now back in Sunday school! The adult classes are meeting together in the Fellowship Hall, and are being livestreamed on Facebook Live. The youth are meeting in the youth room, and the children are gathering downstairs in the classrooms that open up to each other.
- ⇒ A big thank you goes out to Tonya Jones, who taught virtual Sunday school every week during the Covid shutdown. Your efforts are much appreciated!
- ⇒ The youth are having a picnic this Sunday, June 13 immediately following worship at Fort Young Park. We hope to see all of our youth and families there!
- ⇒ I am now getting back out in the community and making pastoral visits to folks who are vaccinated. If you would like a visit, or know someone who could use one, please give me a call (434-738-8841).

You Say - God Says Bible Promises

You say: "It's impossible"
God says: All things are possible
([Luke 18:27](#))

You say: "I'm too tired"
God says: I will give you rest
([Matthew 11:28-30](#))

You say: "Nobody really loves me"
God says: I love you
([John 3:16 & John 3:34](#))

You say: "I can't go on"
God says: My grace is sufficient
([2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15](#))

You say: "I can't figure things out"
God says: I will direct your steps
([Proverbs 3:5-6](#))

You say: "I can't do it"
God says: You can do all things
([Philippians 4:13](#))

You say: "I'm not able"
God says: I am able
([2 Corinthians 9:8](#))

You say: "It's not worth it"
God says: It will be worth it
([Romans 8:28](#))

You say: "I can't forgive myself"
God says: I Forgive you
([1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1](#))

- Author Unknown

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The Ant and the Contact Lens

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Here she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom, there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lost a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it.

Brenda told me that her father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will." God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

—Author Unknown

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Musical Minute:

While the weather has turned hot and humid this year a little too early for my taste, I have to admit that thanks to the early spring rains, this has been an exceedingly exuberant spring in the Alleghany Highlands. When Dawn Wilson and I met at McAllister last Saturday afternoon to run through her solos for the following day we both commented on how lovely the drive down Potts Creek into town had been. Anyone who makes this drive regularly knows how beautiful the redbud is in early spring along a particularly rocky

stretch of the winding two-lane road. On the drive in last Saturday, there were brilliant yellow wildflowers atop the seemingly barren ridge. Although I'm not sure what the flower is, I remember it well from the first year I returned home following mom's cancer diagnosis. Due to the more accessible layout of our house in the "country" the decision was made to move mom from her wonderful old home on Lexington Avenue to our place. It was a jarring and sudden decision for her after the devastating blow of her diagnosis. Once we got settled and our life started to take on some structure, we found ourselves driving into town at least once or twice a week. Route 18 never failed to surprise with its ever-changing seasonal finery. It brought joy and a sense of constancy to our new and disconcerting reality.

Mom will be gone for 10 years on June 27, but I think she'd be pleased to know how often we think of her, especially with the beauty and variety of the passing seasons. We have a bounty of perennial riches dug from her garden—forsythia, peonies, hostas, Black-eyed Susans, clematis and others, and every year I find contentment and solace in cutting flowers from the very plants that I know she planted, tended, and nurtured.

When Dawn came to rehearse last Saturday we discussed the text to Sunday's anthem, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." How perfect the words are for times such as these, and frankly for any other times. How perfectly fitting they were for such a beautiful early summer day. It's always been a favorite congregational hymn of mine, but in listening to Dawn sing it as a solo, I found that the words took on a more personal nature. The second verse reads,

*"Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love."*

The faith-affirming chorus follows:

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me."*

Now that's a resounding hymn of faith if I've ever heard one. (And I appreciated the "Amen!" that followed Dawn's rendition!) I look forward to accompanying all of you when we can safely sing together again. Won't that be a joyous day?!

Take good care.

Beth

BASEBALL

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love. The next batter up was named Godly wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked because Godly wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were loaded. The Lord then turned to Bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace.

Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

The Lord's team won. The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, faith and wisdom will get you on base,...but only My Grace can get you home. My Grace is the one thing Satan cannot steal.

-Author Unknown