

McAllister Messenger

July 2021

A Word From Your Pastor God-Sightings

I recently returned from a family vacation trip to Sunset Beach, North Carolina. One of my favorite things to do at the beach is to take a walk in the evening. This seems to be the time of day to catch sight of some beautiful and inspiring nature scenes. I call them “God-sightings.”

One evening, my walk was greeted by the sight of a distant thunderstorm out on the ocean. I could see the lightning from the storm as tiny flickers of light that would illuminate the surrounding cloud. It was quite captivating.

Another night I was greeted by a gorgeous sunset over the marsh that runs behind the island. It was actually two sunsets: One in the sky, and one reflected on the water. On yet another night, I caught a glimpse of a deer on the sand dunes. It was not what I expected to see on this island, and the sight of it froze me in my tracks. The beautiful creature was munching on some bushes as it made its way across the landscape in front of me.

Whenever we see such beauty in nature, we can call it a “God-sighting.” It’s one way that God alerts us to his presence, which is all around us. It’s one way that God communicates to us a sense of peace and grace that calms our hearts and stirs our souls.

God-sightings occur in more than just nature. Whenever we receive an unexpected act of generosity, God is there. Whenever we see a need being met in a powerful way, God is there. Whenever there is a sense of love and hope that emerges within a group of people, God is there. In fact, we can see God all over the place if we have the eyes for it, if we are willing to recognize it for what it is.

So as you go throughout this month, keep your eyes peeled for God-sightings. Be ready to recognize and find faith in the beautiful and captivating sights and events that God presents to us. And then come and tell me about it. I would love to hear about the ways you see God at work in our world!

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church
900 N. 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



July Birthdays

1 st	Abigail Poague
2 nd	Neil Horn Rebecca Hudson Evan Bishop
3 rd	Amy Bishop
4 th	Rilee Webb
5 th	Hallie Dressler
6 th	Roberta Whitmer Horn
7 th	Judy Whitehead
10 th	Bert Caul
11 th	Amy Hoover Sierra Daily
13 th	Brandon Sponaugle
14 th	Kyndle Koonce
19 th	Teresa Powell
20 th	Jerry Givens, Sr.
21 st	Chuck Bartley
22 nd	Dorothy Wimer
23 rd	Jeana Lee Colberg
26 th	Larry Whitmer
28 th	Margie Young Larry Washburn
29 th	Parker Hudson
31 st	Tori Paxton

Anniversaries

3 rd	Harry & Jean Casey
4 th	Aubrey & Pat Bowling
15 th	Charity & Nathan Hale
20 th	Tracey & Terri Walker
25 th	Kylene & David Smith
31 st	Debbie & Steve Bennett

Congratulations

Scott Scholarship

Recipients for 2021

Rachel Anne Madeline Reyns
Maryemma Alison Shifflett

Rachel was born into the McAllister Church family and has participated in church activities and youth programs her whole life. Rachel graduated from Covington High School. She will attend Dabney S. Lancaster Community College before transferring to James Madison University to continue her studies. Rachel is the daughter of Frank and April Reyns, and the granddaughter of Betty Gibson and Irene Drumheller.

Maryemma was also born into the McAllister Church family and has been active at all levels. She frequently blesses the congregation with her beautiful voice as soloist during our services. Maryemma graduated from Alleghany High School—one year ahead of schedule—and will attend Purdue University. She is the daughter of Patrick and Jill Shifflett Ramsey, and the late John Shifflett. Her grandparents are Van and Brenda Walker, and Robert and Charlotte Shifflett.

We congratulate Rachel and Maryemma on their achievements and wish them the best as they continue their education.

Prayer Concerns:

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

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

Marshall Armentrout	Dana Humphreys
Eddie Bane	Theresa Martin
Marty Bradshaw	Kay Basham Munsey
Christy Alier Centeno	Floyd Overton, Jr.
Gilmer Dressler	Deborah Bush Stinnett
Mike Ferrell, Jr.	Charles "Chucky" Tucker
Chet Fornwalt	Marilyn Whitehead

MILITARY

Kristen Bennett
Kristopher Hoffman
Colton Poague
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 August newsletter is Monday ~ July 26 @ 4 p.m.)

Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◆ Mark your calendar! We are having a one-day Vacation Bible School on Saturday, August 14. The location will be the Humpback Bridge. Bring a lawn chair, and be ready for Bible lessons, crafts, music, and more in this beautiful outdoor setting. For lunch, the church will provide fried chicken and drinks. Everyone please bring a salad to share.
- ◆ I am now getting out and making home visits with folks who are vaccinated. If you would like me to drop by, or know someone who could use a visit, please give me a call. (434-738-8841.)
- ◆ The youth are having an ice cream social at 6:00 pm on Saturday, July 17. Bring a friend and come enjoy some frozen treats!
- ◆ The youth will be having an outing on Lake Moomaw at some point later in the summer. We will have boat rides, as well as games and a brief Bible study. Please stay tuned for further details.
- ◆ Because of lack of participation, we are suspending the youth and children's Sunday school classes until after Labor Day. The adult class will continue to meet at 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You, Lord

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings. Thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible. Thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising. Thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, and my children are so loud.

Thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the picture in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced.

Thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job often is monotonous. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest.

Thank you, Lord, for life.

-Author Unknown

Copyright of © M.S.Lowndes
Site Owner of [Heavens Inspirations](#) 2003-2021,
All Rights Reserved

Congratulations Graduates!

Emily Paige Downer

Emily Paige Downer graduated from Patrick Henry High School in Ashland, VA. She is the daughter of Marc Downer; granddaughter of Richard and Priscilla Downer. Emily will continue her education at Longwood College.

Holden Patrick Downer

Holden Patrick Downer graduated from Deep Run High School in Glen Allen, VA in 2020. He is the son of Alan and Kristin Downer; and the grandson of Richard and Priscilla Downer.

Richard M. Downer, Jr.

Richard M. Downer, Jr. completed his B.A. in Business Administration from Liberty University. Rick is employed at WestRock. Rick is the husband of Leslie; father of Jacob and Jared; and son of Richard and Priscilla Downer.

Christian Kessinger

Christian Kessinger is a 2021 graduate of Virginia Tech with a degree in Accounting. He plans to pursue a Master's Degree while teaching. Christian is the grandson of Gary Rice.

Parker Ruth Hudson

Parker graduated from Lord Botetourt High School and will continue her education at the University of Virginia. Parker is the daughter of Kevin and Rebecca Hudson; and the granddaughter of Patsy Parker.

Jonathan Miles Leitch

Jonathan graduated from Alleghany High School. He is the son of Debi Leitch and the late Robert Preston Leitch, Jr.

Bailey McKinna-Clifford Ramsey

Bailey graduated from Alleghany High School in June. She will attend Radford University. Bailey is the daughter of Patrick and Jill Shifflett Ramsey and the late Amber Ramsey.

Kellen Andrew Sponaugle

Kellen graduated from Alleghany High School and will attend Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. He is the son of Matt and Lisa Sponaugle; and the grandson of Frank and Susan Sponaugle.

Cooper Berkley Rice

Cooper graduated from Alleghany High School. He will attend Dabney S. Lancaster Community College. He is the son of Christopher and Sharon Rice; and the grandson of Gary Rice.



Musical Minute:

Our lavender in the garden has bloomed so beautifully over the last month. I love how it sneaks up on us each year, the stem tips so gradually taking on pale shades of blue and purple that we don't even notice the plants beginning to color until the sun hits just right. Then, a couple of weeks later it blooms in earnest, the brilliantly-hued spikes almost vibrating against the green grass and the pale blue sky. I've always loved the scent of lavender, but I became enamored with the plant itself while on a trip to France almost 25 years ago.

We were already living overseas in 1997 when I had the amazing opportunity to join a group tour of the pipe organs of France. I joined my fellow travelers in Paris where we embarked upon a week of visiting and playing many of the most famous instruments in the city. At each cathedral and church we were met by the host organist and given a thorough introduction to the instrument and its history, as well as an overview of the many famed players and composers whose hands had touched the keys (including, at the Cathedral of St. Sulpice, the much revered and beloved Charles-Marie Widor of "Widor's Toccata" fame).

The days were long—lasting from early in the morning until midnight by the time we had dinner, and they were packed with so much information it was almost overwhelming, but it was a dream for any pipe organ player or organ devotee. And while the history and overview of the instruments were fascinating, there wasn't a single one of us who couldn't wait to hit the bench and make some noise! I had visited Paris before and had heard many of these marvelous instruments in concert, but I had never been granted entry to the organ loft to see the actual organ case, console, stop tablets, and pedalboard. (Many organ lofts in Europe are actually inaccessible from inside the worship space and are entered from outside the church, sometimes even from a different street at the larger cathedrals.) Playing at the Cathedral of Notre Dame will always remain a particularly special memory, as will playing the five manual instrument at St. Sulpice.

After seven exciting and informative days in Paris (And yes, I took a little time to do some shopping, too!), we flew to the south of France where we landed in Marseille on the coast of the Mediterranean. Picturesque, bustling Marseille served as our home base for several days of pipe organ exploration in Provence. Our touring in the south took on a much different pace than our days in Paris. Like departing New York City for more southern destinations, the hours seemed less hurried and the sun cast a different glow. We lingered over longer lunches and dinners taking time to visit a church or two each morning and afternoon. One of the most unique experiences was a communal meal served by nuns next to the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde in Marseille, high on a hill above the sea. We sat at long tables with bench seating and had the most heavenly "Soupe au Pistou." Made with fresh local vegetables (green beans, shelled white beans,

zucchini, onions, potatoes, tomatoes . . .), it was the essence of summer in a bowl. It was served with an icy-cold dry rosé wine, baguettes baked earlier in the day, and bowls of fresh basil pesto for dolloping on the soup. It was a meal I remember to this moment—fragrant, filling and restorative.

It was in a small town outside of Marseille that I saw one of the most beautiful sights of my life—a whole field of lavender in bloom. There had to have been thousands of plants. The scent was exquisite and the deeply colored rows stretched right to the horizon. It was, I believe, the last day of the tour before we would all go our separate ways, either home or on to further exploration in Europe, but of all the sights we had seen, this one, to me at least, has proven to be the most indelible and the most magical.

Seeing our own lavender in bloom over the last weeks prompted me to dig through my files and photographs to unearth some details of that trip so many years ago. It was an entertaining exercise in time travel. I remember a few of the faces (including someone who somewhat resembles me!), many of the pipe organs, and some of the magnificent historical sights. Unbelievably, I have no actual, tangible picture of that breathtaking lavender field—nothing that I can look at in an album or hold in my hand—just the one in my mind. And perhaps that's for the best . . . Here's to beautiful summer memories that remain ever so. No matter where you make them or with whom, I hope that all of you are able to create some of your own this year.

Take good care,

Beth

With Deepest Sympathy

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

Deborah Bush Stinnett ~ *sister-in-law of George Stinnett*

Theresa Fridley Martin ~ *a friend of McAllister Church*



**Attention Presbyterian
Women**

We still need your support.
Circle offering and mission donations may be sent to the church office or included in your giving envelope.

Temporary Address:

Jerry & Lynn Whitehead
1908 Stuarts Draft Hwy
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477