

# McAllister Messenger

September 2021

## A Word from Your Pastor—The Dog Days of Summer

For the past several weeks, we have been in what is known as “the dog days of summer.” We have seen temperatures regularly climb up into the low-to-mid nineties. It has been so hot that we don’t want to do any outdoor activities. We just want to stay inside where it is cool and we can get out of the burning sun.

These “dog days” remind me of a mission trip that I went on when I was in high school. During the heat of July, we travelled to the Mexican town of Ciudad Miguel Alleman – which is right across the border from McAllen, Texas. We went to help build a church.

Our main task that week was to lay cement blocks that would form the walls of the church and its various classrooms. We were far from being experts at laying the blocks, but we had a couple of expert craftsmen from the town helping. One was a man named Patricio.

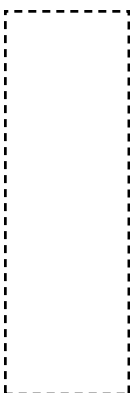
Patricio would stay out in the dry Mexican heat – over 100 degrees on several days we were there – and tirelessly help instruct us in how to lay the blocks. He didn’t speak English, and none of us really spoke Spanish – but Patricio didn’t let the language barrier get in the way of educating us. He would patiently demonstrate how to get just enough cement on your trowel, how to slide it onto the edge of the block below, and then how to place the new block on top and get it level. It must have been comical at times, as Patricio showed us again and again how to lay those blocks, until we kind of got the hang of what we were doing.

Patricio’s tireless patience that he showed us reminds us of the tireless patience that is the grace of God. Just like we as amateur masons kept messing up while trying to lay those cement blocks, we as Christians keep messing up when it comes to our lives and following Christ. And just as Patricio never tired of showing us how to do it right, God never tires of forgiving us and showing us the right way to live. Even in the hottest “dog days of summer,” when our sinfulness threatens to burn us – Christ is there with the cooling waters of forgiveness.

So whenever we get to these “dog days,” I think about that blazing hot mission trip. I think about Patricio’s tireless patience. And I think about God’s amazing patience with us that is shown through the grace of Jesus Christ. During this heat, may we all feel its cooling touch.

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

HAPPY LABOR DAY



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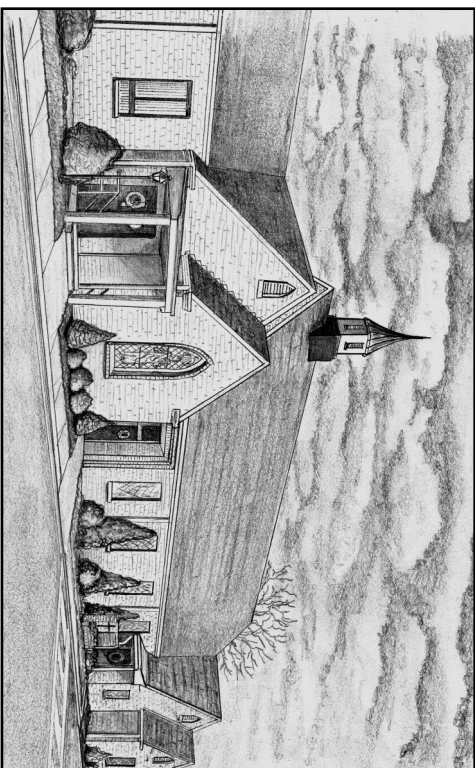
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# Musical Minute:

While the choir loft may be empty and it will be a bit longer before the adult choir can rehearse together again, that doesn't mean that there hasn't been some "lofty" thinking and planning going on. In anticipation of choir starting up again this fall, I spent several summer days perusing choral music catalogs and websites and I chose some beautiful new pieces for us to learn and sing. Several of these anthems have arrived in the last few weeks and I've enjoyed playing through them so that I can share them with our choir members and, in turn, the choir can share them with you. None of these pieces are particularly difficult, but the harmonies are fresh sounding, the melodies lovely (some even familiar), and the texts meaningful. I hope that you will love them as much as I do. And no need for concern—we'll keep McAllister's favorites in the mix. These anthems have been a part of our church's music ministry for years, even decades, and they hold a special place in my heart, too.



Several choir members expressed disappointment that we weren't able to restart rehearsals in September, but fear not, we WILL sing again at McAllister. The Session simply wants to assure that we will be safe when we do so. (This is also my primary concern.) Other choir members have confessed anxiety over how long it has been since they've sung. No worries! Singing is like riding a bike, only easier! We'll be back in "fighting" form before we know it.

So if you are a former or present choir member, I hope that you will rejoin the group when we are able to begin rehearsals. Invite a music-loving friend to come along! If you've never sung in a choir before but think you would like to dabble your toe in the proverbial musical waters, please consider giving us a try! Prior experience in a choir is not necessary, just a love of music and the desire to lead the congregation in song. All voices are welcome and valued, from the tiniest Tenor to the boldest Bass and everything in between. Every individual voice contributes to the whole and aids in the worship of God. If you'd like to discuss choir membership with me, simply call the church and leave a message and I'll happily be in touch with you.

In preparing for the coming fall season, I've been researching prayers for choirs—something perfect to recite before each rehearsal and worship service. Below is one of my favorites. Titled "The Choristers' Prayer" it is thought to have been written in the 1930s. I've found several variations of it online, but I believe the following says it perfectly:

"Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple.  
Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,  
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

I look forward to seeing you in the choir loft.

*Beth*

# Prayer Concerns:

- |                          |                             |                               |                              |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tillie Agnor             | Leslie Downer               | Dianne Lockhart               | Darrell & Donna Tucker       |
| Mildred Akers            | Marc Downer                 | Alex Looney                   | Pete Turner                  |
| Gloria Andrs             | Kaylee Elmore               | Jackson Lowe (age 7 ~ cancer) | Buddy Vass                   |
| Erskine Back             | Joyce Emerson               | Becky Mann                    | Gail Wallace                 |
| Brittany Baker           | Lee & Lelia Fadley          | Brett Manoid                  | Sandra Watson                |
| Miki Ballengee           | Barbara Flint               | Pearl Miller                  | Dennis Whitehead             |
| Bob & Leta Bartley       | Marshall & Donna Fox        | Sonya Milton                  | Pat & Larry Whitmer          |
| Linda Bogar              | Sandra Angell Francis       | Priscilla Moncus              | Wayne Whitmer                |
| Anita Boone              | Thomas Fridley              | Benjamin Moss                 | Shirley Wickline             |
| Stacey Bryant            | Derek Garrett               | Doris Mottern                 | Martha Wilhelm               |
| Margaret Burks           | Betty Gibson                | Patty Nicely                  | Megan Williams               |
| Emily Byer               | Eddie Gibson                | Travis O'Rourke               | Dot Wimer                    |
| Elwood Cadd              | Robert & Gail Gibson        | Jill Peters                   | Joey Wimer                   |
| Benny Capps              | Stephan, Mollie, Emily Gurd | Teresa Powell                 | Linda Payton Wolfe           |
| Jean & Harry Casey       | Evan Groves                 | Paula Pruitt                  | Ray "Lumpy" Worley           |
| Betsy Caul               | Don Hampton                 | Betty Ray                     | Connie Wright                |
| Anne Chalker             | Jennifer Hannah             | Frank & April Reyns           | Erik Young                   |
| Junior Clark             | Richard & Cora Hastings     | Jim Reyns                     | Kevin Young                  |
| Minnie Clark             | Danny & Rhoda Hill          | Mary Rice                     | <i>Caregivers</i>            |
| Sandra Clemmons          | James Hoover                | Paul "Buzzy" Riley            | <i>Covid-19 Patients</i>     |
| Katie Cline & baby Cohan | Neil Horn                   | Carolyn Ross                  | <i>Elected Officials</i>     |
| Kenzie Cline             | Heather Johnson             | B. R. Rupert                  | <i>Essential Workers</i>     |
| Ricky Cooke              | Wendell & Judy Jones        | Connie Simmons                | <i>Non Believers</i>         |
| Steven Craft             | Susan Kennedy               | Our Nation                    | <i>President Biden</i>       |
| Luke Crawford            | Mary Kern                   | Angie Sponaugle               | <i>Prisoners</i>             |
| Pat Cabaniss Davis       | Pam Key                     | Darlene Taylor                | <i>U.S. Troops</i>           |
| Harvey Dobbins           | Richard & Tammy Law         | Ethan & Marcy Thompson        | <i>Students/Teachers/WRE</i> |
| Martha Rock Douglas      | Debi Leitch                 | Adena Tingler                 | <i>People in Afghanistan</i> |
| Corky & Janice Downer    | George Leitch               | Carolyn Tolley                |                              |

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull

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

THE WOODLANDS—Bonnie Patterson

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Andy Howell, Frankie Marshall, Shelby Rock



## DEATHS

Gary Ayers	Edward Johnson
Michael Bennett	Sandra Fridley Kirk
Chris Broughman	Jenny Kitt
Dakota Day	Virgil Lewis, Jr.
Samantha Day	Betty Mann
Hallie Dressler	Jim Mead
Guy Griffith	Thomas Neal
Lloyd Lewis	Randall Tinsley
Chris Hazen	Alma Bartley Wilder

## 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 October newsletter is Monday ~ September 20 @ 4 p.m.)**

# Scars for Life

Some years ago on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His mother in the house was looking out the window saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him.

From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved.

The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go." You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, or anything quite so dramatic. But the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go.

In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you. The Scripture teaches that God loves you. You are a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way.

But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril - and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins - and if you have the scars of His love on your arms be very, very grateful. He did not and will not - let you go.

- Author Unknown

## Memorials & Gifts

In memory of:  
Louise Whitehead & Gary Whitehead by  
*Lisa Hawkins*

### Organ Fund:

In memory of  
Burdette Rupert  
Betty Jean Toombs  
*And My Mother, Wynona Hawkins Crush  
~ on her Birthday, August 29 ~  
by Lisa Hawkins*

### Steeple Fund:

In memory of Joe Wimer  
*by Lisa Hawkins*

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In memory of Janet Taylor Armentrout by  
*Jerry and Darlene Taylor  
Marshall and Donna Fox  
Richard and Priscilla Downer  
Betty Gibson & Family  
Butch and Norma Curtin  
Ellen Pearman  
Danny and Debbie Rodgers  
Kathleen L. Loan  
Dot Wimer  
Danny and Rhoda Hill  
Frank and Susan Sponaugle  
Littlepage/Gooch Bible Class*

In memory of Sandra Rudisill Hill by  
*Kathleen L. Loan  
Littlepage/Gooch Bible Class*

In memory of Roy Lee Reynolds by  
*Frank and Susan Sponaugle  
Kathleen L. Loan*

In memory of our mother, Hallie Dressler,  
*by Pat and Cindee & family*

In memory of Hallie Miller Dressler by  
*Dot Wimer  
Danny and Debbie Rodgers  
Littlepage/Gooch Bible Class  
Chuck and Jean Bartley  
Richard and Priscilla Downer  
Marshall and Donna Fox  
Connie Bunch  
Bob, Tammy Garner and family  
Sidney Spellman  
John and Anne Williams  
Larry and Gail Washburn  
Frank and Susan Sponaugle  
Danny and Rhoda Hill  
Bob and Leta Bartley  
Leigh and David Garza  
Shirley Miller  
Lacey, Patrick, Bodhi and Ezra Avery  
Kathleen L. Loan*

## Sympathy

Gary Ayers ~ former member  
Hallie Miller Dressler ~ member

Alma Bartley Wilder ~ cousin of Bob and Chuck Bartley, Priscilla Downer

## Thank You Note

Thank you, McAllister Church for the Bible and devotional. It will go with me on my new journey and kept close to my heart.

With love, *Maryemma*

We would like to say a huge “thank you” to all of you who have reached out, mailed a card, or sent a gift to help us welcome Piper Marie into the world. It’s amazing to see that many of you who helped raise myself and my brother still care for us so deeply! We are blessed to have your godly support in raising our daughter even from a distance.

God Bless You All, *The Colbergs - Dustin, Jeana, & Piper*

Thank you, Scott Scholarship Committee for allowing me to interview and receive the scholarship. The money will go towards my education at Purdue University!

With love, *Maryemma*

Ronnie and I wish to thank our friends at McAllister Church for the expressions of kindness following the death of Ronnie’s brother, Curtis. We are grateful to be connected with such lovely and caring people.

In Christian Love, *Ronnie and Janet Linkenhoker*



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th	Eric Hayslett
6th	Shelby Rock
7th	Brenda Linkenhoker Rylee Grace Plott Benjamin Moss
8th	Callie Jane Uzzell
10th	Carol Fleenor Lennox Webb
11th	Priscilla Downer Darrell Tucker
12th	Donna Craft
13th	Deanna D’Arpa Kenzie Elizabeth Cline
19th	Karen Arahovites
20th	Wendy Poague Shane Reid
21st	Conner Patterson
22nd	Stephen Carper
24th	Greyson Young
25th	David Rodgers
27th	Samuel Moss
26th	Ashtyn Bishop
28th	Krist Walker
29th	Emilee Givens Nathan Hale

## ANNIVERSARIES

1st	Larry & Pat Whitmer
4th	Paul & Brenda Linkenhoker
5th	Grady & Garlynda Haynes
7th	Chris & Sharon Rice
12th	Michael & Brigitte Young
20th	Craig & Angie Poague
21st	Robbie & Melinda Weikle
30th	Howard & Linda Wickham

Volunteer—Volunteer—Volunteer

Volunteer—Volunteer—Volunteers



Volunteer—Volunteer—Volunteer

**“THANKS A MILLION”**

**Meals-on-Wheels**

**Delivery Teams**

*Marshall and Donna Fox  
Ed Gibson and Harry Casey  
Larry and Gail Washburn  
Bucky and Doris Mottern  
Jerry and Darlene Taylor  
Bob and Leta Bartley  
and our back-up team  
Jim and Marlene Faidley*

