

# McAllister Messenger

Mid December 2021 thru January 2022

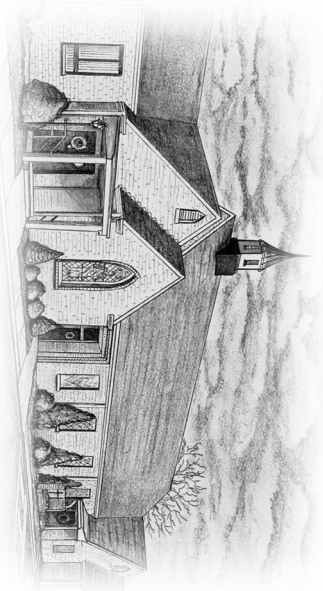
## A Word From Your Pastor Silent Night, Panicked Night

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1818, and Reverend Joseph Mohr was in a panic. Reverend Mohr was the parish priest in Oberndorf, a small village in what is present-day Austria. The panic was due to the organ being out of service. It seems that there had been some river flooding that had damaged the instrument.

Not having any source of music for the Christmas Eve service, Reverend Mohr was desperate for the organist, Franz Gruber, to come up with something. Reverend Mohr remembered a poem he had written a couple of years before called “Stille Nacht” – which translates as “Silent Night.” He gave the poem to Gruber, who composed a simple but lovely tune for the poem on his guitar. This tune became the classic Christmas carol which we now sing each Christmas Eve.

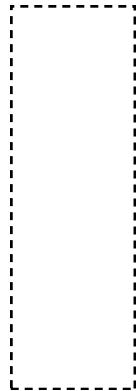
Have you ever had your Christmas plans interrupted? Have you ever found yourself in a Christmas Eve panic because something unexpected happened? Just as God helped Reverend Mohr and Franz Gruber come up with music for that Christmas Eve service, God helps us get through our moments of panic as well. And sometimes, the way that God gets us through has a lasting effect that is much larger.

This happened with Silent Night when it became a beloved Christmas carol worldwide. It’s amazing how this timeless treasure came out of one unexpected moment. Let us give thanks that God is doing the same with our unexpected moments. So when that Christmas Eve panic hits, look to see what God is doing in your midst. You might just stumble your way into your own Christmas classic. Have a very Merry Christmas, everyone!



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

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Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

Email—[revjimmos95@gmail.com](mailto:revjimmos95@gmail.com)

## Steeple Fund Established

A special fund has been established for the removal of the existing steeple and the cost and installation of a new steeple.

The current steeple is more than 60 years old. Wind, rain, and temperature extremes have weakened the structure allowing water to collect inside resulting in damage to the roof and ceiling underneath in the balcony.

Donations to the Steeple Fund should be clearly marked as “Steeple Fund.”

## Musical Minute:

Every culture that celebrates the birth of Christ has its Christmas food traditions. The British have their “figgy” pudding, the French their Buche de Noel, or Yule Log, and the Italians their Panattone sweet bread. We discovered while in the Czech Republic that every Czech household becomes a veritable cookie factory in the weeks preceding Christmas. Mothers, daughters, sisters, and cousins, and depending on the family, fathers and sons, too, all get together to ease the process of shaping and baking hundreds of cookies destined for the Christmas feast and the following days of revelry. There are sugar-coated vanilla crescent cookies, cream-stuffed nut cookies in the shape of a walnut, small, spicy tender-crumbed bear paws, marzipan hedgehogs, pressed Linzer torte cookies filled with jam with the upper cookie cut out so the jelly shines like a stained glass window, and a myriad of other sweet variations.



The first Christmas season that we lived in the Czech Republic, we hosted an open house to thank the many people who had assisted us personally in getting settled into our new home and life as well as those who were aiding in getting Westvaco’s greenfield printing facility built. The house was chock full and the mood was merry as, in broken English and Czech, we all got to know one another a bit better. As the night went on, we realized that something was happening in the city square not too far away. One by one our guests came to us and explained that they needed to run to the city center but would be back within the hour. We weren’t sure what was up, but finally someone explained that the Christmas carp had arrived! Our visitors were all heading into town to pick their live carp out of a barrel and then take it home where it would live in the family bathtub until December 24. We learned that the traditional Czech Christmas feast consists of fried carp and potato salad preceded and followed by dozens of the aforementioned cookies. It didn’t take long for one of our new friends to decide that since the Americans were living in the Czech Republic, the Americans needed to experience an authentic Czech Christmas dinner! He disappeared briefly and soon returned with a heavy duty plastic shopping bag, the contents of which were noticeably alive. Yes—it was our very own Christmas carp! We named him Ralph and hastily took him to the ground floor bathroom to put him in the tub. He was a handsome, heavy fish, but was none too happy for having been out of the water for some minutes. As you know, carp are bottom dwellers and are known for having a distinct flavor directly related to their habitat. They are also meaty and tender and the time spent in the fresh water of the bath is meant to minimize some of that earthy (i.e. muddy) flavor.

At the time of Ralph’s arrival, the Westvaco offices were still located on the ground floor of our private residence while we awaited completion of the new factory. This meant that our Christmas carp inhabited the company restroom. Any visitor to the facilities during the days preceding Christmas was greeted by an emphatic “swish” and the

## Financial Books for 2021 will Close December 30<sup>th</sup>

The financial records for 2021 will close on December 30<sup>th</sup>. In order for contributions to be recorded in church records as 2021 gifts, they need to be delivered to the office before 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>, or made on-line by mid-night of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**The church office will be closed on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**, so please do not bring contributions to the church on that day. Many thanks for all your financial gifts throughout this challenging year and for your help as we work to close the books for 2021 in a timely manner.



## 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.

Circle #3 ~ January 11 @ 5:30pm      Circle #4 ~ January 12 ~ TBA

## Prayer List

Debbie Amos	Melissa Curtis	Dianne Lockhart	Angie Sponaugle
Randy Anderson	Deana Tucker Damico	Norene Madden	Matt Sponaugle
Gloria Andrs	Martha Rock Douglas	Donald Martin	Curtis Stewart
Roger Baker	Maddy Downer	Pearl Miller	Ellis Stull
Rob Bennett	Mr. Duncan	Cletus Nicely	Ruby Stull
Linda Bogar	Reneé Gann	Lori Nicely	Darlene Taylor
Pete Byers	Nicole Eggleston	Pat Nicely	Frankie Tucker
Gary Bartley	Larry Hambrick	Carl Nichols	Richard & Nancy Tyree
Richard Bowyer	The Holt Family	Pam Poague	Mary Via
Allen Broughman	Robert Jackson	Ann Burns Reid	Joyce Waddell
Dwayne & Susan Broughman	John Keller	Mary Rice	Charlie Walker
Carol Bush	April Killen	Katie Riley	Tracie Wegman
Jean Casey	Susan Taylor Kennedy	Thomas Riley	Glenn White family
Joseph Crupper	Harold Lambert	Jimmy Saylor	Mike Wickline
	Ruth Lane	Pat & Dianne Scruggs	John & Linda Wolfe
	Margie Leavine	Bert Seay	Jonathan Wolfe
	Olivia Lee	Judd Smith	Buddy Young

## Deaths

William Bowles	J.W. Marquardt
Hazel Burr	Curtis Persinger
Roger Dawson	Diane Propps
Gary Fisher	Arrow Raymond
Howard Hammond	Clinton Sizemore, Jr.
Virginia Harmon	Charles Smith
Kandi Johnson	Wally Snead
Addie Linkswiler	Jenny Zeek
Cheryl Lockhart	Tornado victims

## Prayer Works!

*Give it a try.*

**MILITARY** ~ Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead  
**MISSIONARIES** ~ Tom & Judy Harvey, Esslinger/Lee  
**BRIAN CENTER** ~ Bill Lockhart, David Lynn, Ruby Stull  
**SCOTT HILL** ~ Phyllis Lynn, Sarah Mays, Mary Whitehead  
**SHUT-IN** ~ Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Etha Hayslett, Andy Howell, Frankie Marshall, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock  
**CONSTANT NEED** ~ Midge Akers, Erskine Back, Miki Ballengee, Bob & Leta Bartley, Stacey Bryant, Jean & Harry Casey, Steven Craft, Luke Crawford, Kathy Crutchfield, Leslie Downer, Betty Gibson, Evan Groves, Barbara Flint, Don Hampton, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Neil Horn, Lori Isaacs, Wendell & Judy Jones, Pam Key, Sonya Milton, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Patsy Parker, Denise Pillow, Teresa Powell, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Larry & Pat Whitmer, Wayne Whitmer, Martha Wilhelm, Shirley Wickline, Dot & Joey Wimer, Linda Wolfe

# December

## BIRTHDAYS

- 18 Bob Bartley
- 20 Brett Smith
- 21 Ricky Cooke
- 22 Barbara Noel
- 24 Diane Hicks  
Seth McKee
- 25 H. L. Wickham
- 28 Meghan Craft
- 31 Katie Riley  
Frank Sponaule  
Chris Whitehead

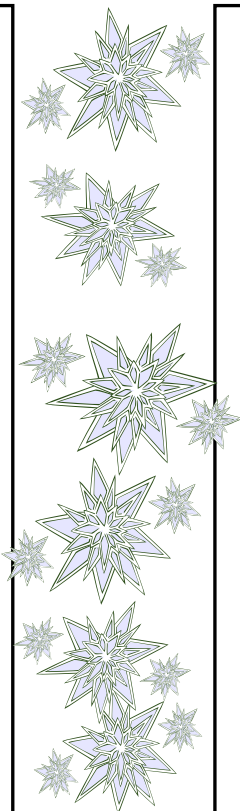
## ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Gus & Becky Hayslett

*The office will be closed December 23 & 24  
in observance of Christmas.*

*Also, December 31 & January 3  
in observance of the New Year.*

“The Adult Choir will rehearse in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 21 at 5:30 PM. We will prepare for the Christmas Eve service (Friday, December 24 at 7 PM) and for the Sunday service on December 26. There will be no choir rehearsal on Tuesday, December 28, although the choir will sing the Choral Call and Benediction Response during the Sunday morning service on January 2, 2022. Please attend on January 2 if you are able so that we can lead the congregational hymns. We will resume regular rehearsals on Tuesday, January 4 at 5:30 PM.”



# January

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Devin Tucker  
Becky Redman
- 4 Byron Faidley
- 5 Joyce Bartley
- 7 Brandon Rowan
- 9 Patsy Parker  
Deborah Rodgers  
Kinley Uzzell
- 10 Andrew Hill
- 13 Danny Hill  
Terry Thompson
- 14 Buddy Young  
Susan Givens
- 16 Tracie Wegman  
Kassie Young
- 19 Gaynell Parker  
Buzzy Riley  
Amy Stinnett
- 20 Terri Carper  
Leslie Downer  
Grady Haynes  
Gates Haynes
- 23 Shirley Thompson
- 26 Tamara Hill  
Evelyn Scruggs-Amos
- 28 Jean Bartley  
Carol Bush
- 31 Gavin Haynes

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Wayne & Diane Barksdale
- 14 Chuck & Jean Bartley
- 23 Tyson & Tara Uzzell
- 24 Bob & Leta Bartley

occasional splash of a seemingly indignant fish that had been unwittingly transported from its familiar environment. Keeping Ralph as a pet long term was not an option, so there was nothing for me to do but pour over my cookbooks looking for recipes for large freshwater fish. Our Czech friends all suggested that after the fish met his demise, its flavor would be further cleansed and enhanced by a long soak in a milk bath the day of cooking. I listened to every tidbit of advice on carp preparation I was given and also decided to make a huge casserole of scalloped potatoes as insurance in case the fish was a disappointment (or a disaster)! We “prepared” Ralph a couple of days before Christmas so that we might enjoy some of our own Christmas food traditions on the actual day. While my baked fish preparation was not authentically Czech, it was memorably tasty and the scalloped potatoes were truly a side dish rather than the main course.

Over the years we were honored to be included in the family Christmas festivities of several of our Czech friends where we tasted carp as it was meant to be cooked—deep-fried, crispy and served piping hot. Carp won’t be on our menu this Christmas Eve, but we do have a wonderful hand-carved wooden carp (the very image of Ralph) that Andy gave me as a Christmas gift during our years in the Czech Republic. It presides over our living room year round, a reminder of the most beautiful expressions of the Christmas season—generosity, kindness, friendship, hospitality, community, tradition, family and love. While I’m pretty certain that it won’t be a carp, I hope that you are surrounded this Christmastide by whatever evokes these sentiments for you. Merry Christmas and Veselé Vánoce!

*Beth*

## Notes From Pastor Jim

- \* The adult Sunday school class is hosting a Christmas Breakfast at 9:00 am on December 19. All are invited for a time of good food and fellowship.
- \* December 19 will be a very special Sunday at McAllister. The children’s choir will sing, and the youth will present the Nativity Christmas Play. All youth and children are invited to attend a Christmas Party following worship.
- \* The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 pm on December 24. Please join us for a service of lessons and carols, concluding with a candle lighting service.
- \* There will be no youth and children’s Sunday school on December 26.

**Thank You...** To my McAllister Family:

I wish to thank Reverend Moss for his visit which I enjoyed so much. Also, thanks to all who sent cards, notes, thoughts and prayers and the baby poinsettia. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Thanks again so much.

*Love, Travis O’Rourke*





**Flowers and gifts given  
in Honor...and/or in Memory...**

**Poinsettias in Memory**

*Virgil & Nita Bartley*  
by The Downer Children & Grandchildren

*Jack, Helen, Jesse, Brian, Richard, Jonathan,  
Wallace O'Connor,  
Ashley Hepler & Bobby Wilhelm*  
by Their Family

*Virgil & Nita Bartley; Jack & Ethel Downer*  
by Richard & Priscilla Downer & Family

*George & Joy Noel* by Bobby Rice Family

*Percy & Beulah Newcomb*  
by Bobby Rice Family

*Family Members* by Marshall & Donna Fox

*Mr. & Mrs. Walter J. Poague;*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Homer S. Welcher; Libby Riley,*  
*Peggy Redmon* by Lee Ann Poague

*Mr. & Mrs. Theo Craft,*  
*William Roscoe Craft*  
by Donna, Jeremiah, Lauren & Cheston Walker

*Hallie Dressler* by Joe & Pat Martin

*Pete & Elizabeth Necolau* by Maria P. Necolau

*Carl & Nancy Nicely* by Maria P. Necolau

*Earl "Trucky" Lemon* by Carole Lemon

*A. A. Hayslett, Sr.* by The Hayslett Family

*Bonnie Rice* by Gary Rice & Family

*Clyde Landis, Sr. & Sadie Landis*  
by Clyde Landis, Jr.

*Berkley M. Key* by Pam Key

*Gilbert Paul "Gil" Poague* by Pam Key

*Loressa Poague* by Pam Key

*Mr. & Mrs. Ed & Mary Back*  
by Van & Brenda Walker

*Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Walker*  
by Van & Brenda Walker

*John Shifflett*  
from Jill, Patrick, Tori, Makenzie, Cody, Bailey,  
Maryemma, Caydance & Finley

*Amber Ramsey*  
from Jill, Patrick, Tori, Makenzie, Cody, Bailey,  
Maryemma, Caydance & Finley

*Mr. & Mrs. Theo Craft*  
by Charlie, Jeremiah, Lauren & Cheston Walker

*Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Walker*  
by Charlie, Jeremiah, Lauren & Cheston Walker

*Joe Wimer* by A Friend

*Libby Donnally Riley* by Her Family

*E. W. Bartley & Margaret Bartley*  
by Bob & Leta Bartley & Family

*Bea Jennings & Dick Ervin*  
by Bob & Leta Bartley & Family

*Past Members* by Larry & Gail Washburn

*James, Marion & Roy Lee Reynolds*  
by Jim, Marlene & Byron Faidley

In loving memory of:  
*Pookie & Ginger Leitch*  
*Richard & Anna Dreszer*  
*Frances & Burdette Rupert*  
from Elizabeth & Andrew Dreszer

*Harvey L. Stull*  
by Wife & Daughter; Ruby & Paula Stull

*Larry Johnson Stull*  
by Mother & Sister; Ruby & Paula Stull

*William H. Gurd & Janet S. Gurd*  
*Matthew W. Rodgers*  
by Deborah, Danny, David, Shannon,  
Hayden & Mason Rodgers

*Grover Barnett, Sr., Audrey Barnett Jamison,*  
*Clarence H. Bush, Sr. & Mary Bush*  
*Kenneth Jamison & Virginia Jamison*  
by Bob & Dorothy Bush, Tim & Rhonda & family

**Poinsettias in Honor**

*Margaret Griffith,*  
*Callie Uzzell, & Kinley Uzzell*  
by Maria Necolau

*Our Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren* by  
Jean & Harry Casey

*Richard & Priscilla Downer*  
by The Downer Children & Grandchildren

*Family* by Marshall & Donna Fox

*Benjamin Moss* by Jim & Margaret Moss

*Samuel Moss* by Jim & Margaret Moss

*Maria Necolau* by Callie & Kinley Uzzell

*Larry & Gail Washburn*  
by Missy, Shane & Chloe Reid

*In honor of Adult Choir Members*  
By Elizabeth & Andrew Dreszer

*McAllister Elders—Past Present & Future*  
By Elizabeth & Andrew Dreszer

**Advent Wreath**

*In memory of Eva Wood* by Emmett Wood

**Monetary Gifts  
IN MEMORY OF**

*Edward T. O'Rourke, Jr.* by His Family—  
Travis, Jeri, Larry & Josephine

*Norwood, Dana and Barry Tingler*  
by Dianne Tingler Mahan

*Gerald W. Gibson, Sr. & Stacey N. Gibson* by  
Betty Gibson & Family

*Arnold Hostetter, Jr.* by Bob & Vicki Gerow

*Members and friends lost in the last year*  
by Bob & Leta Bartley & Family

*Shirley Ferris* by Jerry & Darlene Taylor

*Doc Altizer, James Flint, Barbara Warlitzer,*  
*Joe Wimer, Sadie Landis, Hallie Dressler*  
by Dianne Tingler Mahan

*Shirley Ferris* by Joe & Pat Martin

*Hallie Dressler & Berkley Key*  
by Gary & Diane Walker

**(To the Steeple Fund)**

*Harry & Annie Stinespring* by June Anne Cooke

*Elmer & Charlotte Keyser* by Family

*Shirley Hostetter Ferris*  
by Sandy Persinger & Jennifer Markham

*Shirley Ferris* by Ed Gibson

*John Wesley Marquardt* by Dot Wimer

*Lillian H. Wood* by Eugene W. Hinton, Jr. (son)  
& Sue Ellen Hinton (daughter-in-law)

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Bob & Leta Bartley & Family

Paul Riley      Pam Key

Charlene Walker      Danny Walker

Joe & Pat Martin      Lee & Lelia Fadley

Howard & Pam Poague

Rick & Leslie Downer

John & Karen Chichester