

McAllister Messenger

December 2021

New Class of Elders Elected

At the Congregational Meeting on November 21, the church elected a new class of elders. Congratulations to Jim Faidley, Howard Poague, Jerry Taylor, Priscilla Downer, and Debbie Rodgers for their election. Please be in prayer for them as they prepare for their terms of service. We give thanks to the following elders for their service as they rotate off this year: Chuck Bartley, Jean Bartley, Betsy Caul, Marshall Fox, and Janie Tyree.

Masks Are Now Optional

At their meeting on November 21, the Session decided to make the wearing of masks during worship optional for those who have been vaccinated. Of course, you are welcome to continue wearing your mask if you would like. We appreciate everyone for abiding by our mask guidelines up to this point. Please continue to be mindful of social distancing and avoiding handshakes and hugs.

Christmas Cheer Has Changed

COVID-19 has changed the way we do Christmas Cheer at McAllister. Instead of adopting names from the Christmas Mother and providing gifts, toys, and groceries, we now make a donation to the Christmas Mother Program to assist those families. McAllister still provides for some others who are not part of the Christmas Mother Program. So remember, we still need your help to continue this long tradition of Christmas Cheer.

Christmas Breakfast

The adult Sunday school class will be sponsoring a Christmas breakfast. We will gather on Sunday, December 19 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a time of good food and fellowship.

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



Merry Christmas!

From:

The Session and Staff



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Covington, VA
Permit No. 67
Non-Profit Organization

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Covington, VA 24426

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Website: mcallistermempcusa.org
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

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Musical Minute:

Sunday, November 14, 2021 marked the first time the Adult Choir sang from the choir loft in 623 days. The members were all excited to be participating in the service again and we were all so touched and humbled by the spontaneous and exuberant applause from the congregation. A few of us (I'm not saying which) even got a little teary-eyed! Thank you so much for your appreciation of our dedicated vocalists. The choir began rehearsing in mid-October and all of the singers have been working diligently to learn new repertoire and refresh some old favorites. When I talked with big brother Nick last week before the choir sang its first new anthem from the loft, I shared with him my concerns that the circumstances (physically distanced and masked) were less than ideal for a stellar performance. Nick quickly put things in perspective by reminding me that last year at this time, no choirs were singing together at all. The very fact that McAllister's choir has been rehearsing together for more than a month and that they were preparing to sing an anthem as a group was indeed, "ideal." (And, may I say, the choir did a lovely job with the anthem last Sunday. Thanks guys!)



Tammy Scruggs-Duncan worked tirelessly to assemble a children's ensemble to sing last week's Choral Call to Worship. Thanks to Covid-19 concerns, the exact make-up of the group was in a state of flux almost until the last minute. On Saturday morning, with all of the other singers sidelined, both Mason and Maddox Hale bravely agreed to go it alone. And they did an absolutely beautiful job. In the end, even though it was not what anyone had initially envisioned, it was "ideal."

We really are in a better place than we were a year and a half ago, and even 8 months ago. Due to the long-reaching effects of the pandemic, the upcoming holidays may still contain some unexpected bumps, but at least most of us will be able to celebrate with family, even if in smaller groups than those to which we are accustomed. No matter what shape your holidays take this year, I hope that you will find a way to make them "ideal."

Sympathy:

McAllister Church extends sympathy and prayer to the family and friends of:
Shirley Hostetter Ferris ~ member

Prayer Concerns

Randy Anderson	Derek Garrett	Pauline Paxton	Sandra Watson
Hershel Andrews	Donna Gilbert Gil	Jill Peters	Tracie Fox Wegman
Gloria Andrs	Larry Hambrick	Teresa Powell	Glenn White family
Mary Austin	Howard Hammond	Paula Pruitt	Mike Wickline
Erskine Back	Dottie Hanshew	Ann Burns Reid	Shirley Wickline
Rink Baker	Jason Hill	Jim Reynolds	Howard Winfrey
Robert Bartley	Susan Taylor Kennedy	Mary Rice	Ray "Lumpy" Worley
Rob Bennett	Mary Kern	Jimmy Saylor	Connie Wright
Linda Bogar	Linda Keyser	Cade & Jack Scruggs	Buddy Young
Allen Broughman	Ruth Lane	Lynn Seldomridge	
Stacey Bryant	Richard & Tammy Law	Maryemma Shifflett	<i>Her Majesty—</i>
Margaret Burks	Barbara Leitch	Judd Smith	<i>Queen Elizabeth II</i>
Roger Byer	Jack Leitch	Wally Snead	<i>Caregivers</i>
Benny Capps	Dianne Lockhart	Angie Sponaugle	<i>Covid—19 Patients</i>
Betsy Caul	Jackson Lowe (age 7 ~ cancer)	Matt Sponaugle	<i>Elected Officials</i>
Ricky Cooke	Brett Manoid	James Switzer	<i>Essential Workers</i>
Jim Crawford	J. W. Marquardt	Darlene Taylor	<i>Fire Fighters/Victims</i>
Patty Crosier	Donald Martin	Sandy Thompson	<i>Non Believers</i>
Joseph Crupper	Pearl Miller	Frankie Tucker	<i>Our Nation</i>
Martha Rock Douglas	Amanda Nicely	Richard & Nancy Tyree	<i>President Biden</i>
Leslie Downer	Cletus Nicely	Callie & Kinley Uzzell	<i>Prisoners</i>
Maddie Downer	Pat Nicely	Lucy Vest & baby Isaac	<i>U.S. Troops</i>
Nicole Eggleston	Carl & Becky Nichols	Mary Via	<i>Students/Teachers/WRE</i>
Reneé Gann	Patsy Parker	Brenda Wallace	

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull

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

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Etha Hayslett, Andy Howell, Frankie Marshall, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock, Martha Wilhelm,

CONTINUED PRAYER—Tillie Agnor, Mildred Akers, Miki Ballengee, Anita Boone, Emily Byer, Elwood Cadd, Jean & Harry Casey, Junior Clark, Minnie Clark, Sandra Clemmons, Steven Craft, Luke Crawford, Corky & Janice Downer, Kaylee Elmore, Joyce Emerson, Lee & Lelia Fadley, Barbara Flint, Marshall & Donna Fox, Betty Gibson, Eddie Gibson, Robert & Gail Gibson, Evan Groves, Don Hampton, Jennifer Hannah, Richard & Cora Hastings, Danny & Rhoda Hill, James Hoover, Neil Horn, Lori Isaacs, Wendell & Judy Jones, Pam Key, Debi Leitch, George Leitch, Pearl Miller, Sonya Milton, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Travis O'Rourke, Betty Ray, Frank & April Reynolds, B. R. Rupert, Monzell Sovereign, Ethan Thompson, Adena Tingler, Carolyn Tolley, Darrell & Donna Tucker, Pete Turner, Buddy Vass, Dennis Whitehead, Pat & Larry Whitmer, Wayne Whitmer, Dot Wimer, Joey Wimer, Linda Payton Wolfe



DEATHS

Michelle Allen	Jack Knighton
Todd Wayne Botkin	Jack Leitch
Shirley Bowyer	Roger May
Randy Brinkley	Nellie Burns Miller
Cathy Parham Brown	David Moynihan
Brandon Byer	Todd Nicely
Donna Linton Clarkson	Mark Pace
Shirley Ferris	Loretta Robinson
Alice Fridley	James "Jim" Simpson
Lester Gann	Bill Smith
Marvin Hooker, Sr.	Bill Thompson

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 January newsletter is **Monday ~ December 13 @ 4 p.m.**)*

An Advent Message from the Racial Equity Workgroup

Did you ever stop and consider that the Christmas Story is one of great diversity? It is filled with powerful and powerless people. Characters include academic sages and illiterate minimum wage workers. There is a pregnant teen mother and an older troubled baby daddy. Because this story is so often peppermint-coated and trimmed with red bows we fail to see that it could be ripped from the headlines of our newspapers and splashed in vivid detail across social media. If we approach our beloved story through a wider lens this year, we may find a path through division to wholeness. If we try to grapple with our uncomfortableness to talk of socially unacceptable pregnancies, racial and religious inequities that lead to people crowding into spaces where they are intimidated and coerced, or economic hardships because of racial history and societal privilege, then we may find this ancient story speaking to us in new ways. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of Immanuel, may we consider why Jesus came to live and die as one of us – “that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of two, thus making peace” (Eph. 2:15b, NRSV).

In the Racial Equity survey pastors and clerks were asked to share scripture they found to be helpful when discussing issues of race. We offer them below as a potential source for personal and communal reflection.

- Galatians 3:28*
- Luke 10:25-37*
- Matthew 25*
- Leviticus 19:33-34*
- Deuteronomy 10:19*
- Ephesians 2:14-20*
- Romans 12:5*
- 1 Peter 2:9*
- Genesis 1: 26-31*
- Mark 12:30-31*
- 1 Cor 10:17*

Most notably the entire book of *Exodus* -- gives us the liberating image of God who stands on the side of the oppressed and vows that the members of the Covenant never embody the oppression of Egypt and the Pharaoh.

- Colossians 4:1*
- The Sermon on the Mount*
- Acts 2:17*
- 1 Samuel 16:7*
- Romans 10:12*

Ecclesiastes 3:1,7 -- There is a time for everything ... a time to be silent and a time to speak.

Matthew 7-12

During the weeks of Advent, may we begin to deconstruct our familiar Christmas narrative and see real people behind the sweet smells of the holiday. We may then start a journey toward understanding all the people who live in our world, our community, our church.

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 has 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.”

Memorials & Gifts

Steeple Fund:

In memory of Shirley Hostetter Ferris by *Bobby & Anita Rice*

Organ Fund:

In honor of Beth Dreszer & Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
By Covington Woman's Club

Memorial:

In memory of Janet Taylor Armentrout by
Sandy Persinger & Jennifer P. Markham

In memory of Shirley Hostetter Ferris by
*Helping Hands Senior Center
Marshall & Donna Fox*

~POINSETTIA NOTICE~ order by December 5th

The Worship and Planning Committee will be using red poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Sunday December 12th and 19th. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 5, 2021. Make checks payable to McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church, marked “Poinsettia”. Enclose with the order form below and return to the church office or you may call in your order at—962-2675.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

In memory/
In honor _____

Given by: _____

Number of Plants: _____ At \$10.00 each = _____



** You may pick your plant up after the service on December 19th or 24th .**

December

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rick Downer
- 2 Kevin Hudson
- 4 Mary Whitehead
- 5 Pat Bowling
Cooper Hill
- 7 Stacy Patterson
- 11 Debbie Bennett
- 15 Margaret Moss
- 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 Sponaugle
Chris Whitehead

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Kevin & Rebecca Hudson
- 6 Ronnie & Janet Linkenhoker
- 12 Andrew & Elizabeth Dreszer
- 16 Pat & Jennifer Markham
- 21 Gus & Becky Hayslett
- 22 Stephen & Sara Nicely

Sing to the Lord!

The Adult Choir will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays at 5:30 PM each week in November and December to prepare music for the upcoming Advent season and new year. While we will take a holiday break on Tuesday, December 28, choir members are still asked to sing from the choir loft on the following Sunday, January 2, to help lead the hymns and sing the Choral Call and Benediction Response.

Newcomers who have considered joining the choir but haven't yet made the leap are always welcome to visit a rehearsal. We are working on some really lovely music and would love to have you join us.



Christmas Gifts and Memorials, & the Poinsettia List

will be published in a special edition of the McAllister Messenger on December 15.

Presbyterian Women

Circle #3—Tuesday,
December 14 @ 5:30pm
January 11 @ 5:30pm

Circle #4—Wednesday,
December 8 & January 12
(call moderator for time)

Circle members not attending a meeting are encouraged to send their offering to support the PW Missions.

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

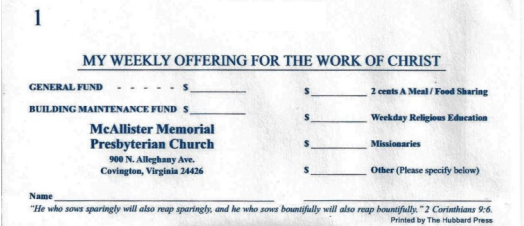


The office will be closed
December 31 & January 3
in observance of
the New Year.

Church Financial Books for 2021 will Close on December 30th

The Financial records for 2021 will close on December 30th. 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 30th, post-marked by December 31st, or made on-line by mid-night of December 31st.

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 31st, so please do not bring contributions to the church on those days. 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.



The Offering Envelopes for 2022 are ready for pick-up at the church or call the office to have them delivered or mailed to you.