

McAllister Messenger

February 2022

A Word From Your Pastor

It's the call that no one wants to hear these days, the one telling you that you have tested positive for Covid. I received such a call last Thursday. In fact, we learned that every member of our family – myself, Margaret, and both boys – had tested positive.

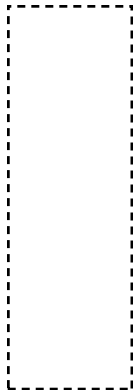
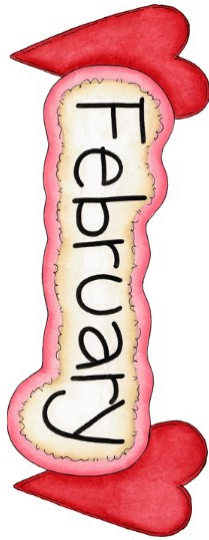
The positive tests meant that we would have to quarantine for five days if we showed no symptoms, and 10 days if we showed symptoms. Fortunately, we have all been blessed to be asymptomatic. This meant that I would only have to miss one Sunday, and that I am back in the church office as of Wednesday, January 26.

The quarantine time, however, gave me time to think about those who have Covid who are not so blessed – those who are feeling serious symptoms, those who are hospitalized, and those who lost loved ones to this virus. It is leaving a trail of suffering and grief unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. It also gives us a calling as a church.

I encourage each member of our church to engage in prayer about this ongoing Covid crisis. Ask God to show you how you can be present to those who are suffering because of it. Maybe it is something as simple as a card or a phone call to show someone that you are thinking about them. During my quarantine time, I received a number of calls and texts from concerned church members. They meant a lot to me, to know that someone cared enough to reach out and contact me.

I don't have any grand theological conclusions that I reached during my time spent with Covid. Just an appreciation of those who cared enough to reach out, and a renewed sense of calling to be present and praying for those who are dealing with the more serious consequences of the illness. May we all sense and respond to this calling. Everyone be safe and healthy out there!

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



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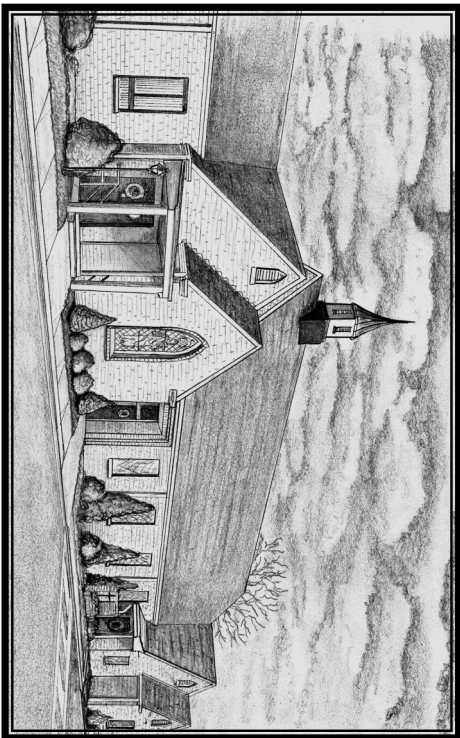
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January 9, 2022

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church
900 N. Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

To Session and Members,

This letter is to inform you, the Session and Members of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church, of my retirement effective January 31, 2022.

Thank you for the privilege of serving McAllister Church for more than 19 ½ years. I will truly miss being a part of the McAllister Church family.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Linkenhoker

Who I Am In God

- I am an overcomer—because You have overcome.
- I am victorious—because of Your resurrection victory.
- I am Your child—because You have adopted me.
- I am free from sin—because Your blood has redeemed me.
- I am forgiven—because You have washed me clean.
- I am healed—because of Your wounds.
- I am justified—through faith in You.
- I am revived—through the water of Your Word.
- I am wonderfully made—because Your works are wonderful.
- I am Your workmanship—designed with a purpose and destiny.
- I am at peace—because I look to You, not my circumstances.
- I am contented—because my satisfaction is in You.
- I am a new creation—because You make all things new.
- I am FREE—because Your truth sets me FREE!

By M.S.Lowndes

Heavens Inspirations on Facebook



Prayer Concerns

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donnie Adams | Deana Tucker Damico | Debbie Jackson | Bert Seay |
| Tillie Agnor | Martha Rock Douglas | Robert Jackson | Monzell Sovereign |
| Mildred Akers | Maddy Downer | Wendell & Judy Jones | Angie Sponaugle |
| Gloria Andrs | Corky & Janice Downer | Susan Taylor Kennedy | Natalie Sponaugle |
| Debbie Amos | Leslie Downer | Pam Key | Darlene Taylor |
| Natalie Austin | Ronnie Downer | Ruth Lane | Jerry Taylor |
| Pam Austin | Kaylee Elmore | Harold Lambert | Ethan Thompson |
| Sue & James Bailey | Joyce Emerson | The Law Family | Mary Jane Taylor Thurston |
| Roger Baker | Alma Entsminger | Margie Leavine | Adena Tingler |
| Rob Bennett | Lee & Lelia Fadley | Debi Leitch | Carolyn Tolley |
| Pete Byers | Barbara Flint | George Leitch | Darrell & Donna Tucker |
| Jackie Baker | Marshall & Donna Fox | Dianne Lockhart | Pete Turner |
| Miki Ballenger | Betty Gibson | Pearl Miller | Buddy Vass |
| Carol Bush | Eddie Gibson | Sonya Milton | Joyce Waddell |
| Anita Boone | Robert & Gail Gibson | Bucky & Doris Mottern | Brenda Walker |
| Emily Byer | Evan Groves | The Moss Family | Charlie Walker |
| Elwood Cadd | Don Hampton | Wanda Musser | Dennis Whitehead |
| The Caldwell Family | Jennifer Hannah | Carl Nichols | Pat & Larry Whitmer |
| Jean & Harry Casey | Richard & Cora Hastings | Tomalee O'Conner | Wayne Whitmer |
| Junior Clark | Shana Hatzapalous | Travis O'Rourke | David Williams |
| Minnie Clark | Bonnie Henderson | Terry & Jim Plott | Dot Wimer |
| Sandra Clemmons | Ralph Hepler, Jr. | Betty Ray | Joey Wimer |
| Joe Cormier | Danny & Rhoda Hill | Frank & April Reynolds | Linda Payton Wolfe |
| Steven Craft | James Hoover | Rachel Reynolds | Buddy Young |
| Luke Crawford | Neil Horn | Mary Rice | Stan Young |
| Joseph Crupper | Lori Isaacs | Thomas Riley | Tornado Victims |
| Melissa Curtis | Brittany Jackson | B. R. Rupert | Covid-19 Victims |

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull

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

THE WOODLANDS—Dolly Whitehead

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

MILITARY

Kristen Bennett, Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES

Tom & Judy Harvey
Esslinger/Lee

DEATHS

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Sylvia Bess | Pat Knighton |
| Peggy Blankenship | Noreen Madden |
| Wayne Glover | Katie Moody |
| Mary Kern | Brian Nicely |
| Pauline Sizemore | Tanner Nicely |
| Connie Carver | Pat Sibold |
| Rena Claytor | Wayne Whitmer |
| William Hubbard | |

Newsletter Information

Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone.

(Deadline for the March newsletter is Monday ~ February 14 @ 4 p.m.)



**The office will be closed
Monday, February 21
in observance of Presidents Day!**

HANDBELL WORKSHOP! February 27, 2022

In order to continue the use of McAllister's beautiful Malmark handbells in worship, a workshop for current and new prospective ringers is being planned for Sunday, February 27. Beginning with lunch, the workshop will be conducted by Sandra Minter and will take place in McAllister's Fellowship Hall. It will be about two hours in length. The length of the session can be extended a bit if there is enough interest. The primary purpose of this workshop is to give interested individuals an opportunity to learn about handbells and reading handbell music.



All current and prospective ringers are encouraged to come and "give it a try." No permanent commitment is implied by participation in this workshop. It is simply a chance to see if ringing bells might be an enjoyable way to offer your time and talents to your church and your God.

Dear Current and New Handbell Ringers,

I would like to say how much I appreciate the opportunity to help with handbells at McAllister since your director Kathryn Crutchfield has moved to Georgia to be near her son Chris.

It is truly my feeling that handbells are among the most fun ways to make music together.

I would also like to say that many experts on brain fitness consider learning a musical instrument or a foreign language two of the very best ways to maintain brain health. (It seems to me that handbells are easier and more fun than a foreign language.)

There will most likely be some ringers or interested individuals from First Presbyterian Church who will join in this workshop. However, I hasten to assure both churches that they will remain two separate handbell choirs. Any combining of choirs would be only for special occasions or concerts, with the agreement of both groups.

I am looking forward to making music together.

Sincerely,
Sandra Minter

Scholarship Applications

It's not too early to apply for the Scott Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office. Any member of McAllister Church attending college in 2022 may apply. Application deadline is June 1, 2022.

Presbyterian Women

Circle #3—February 8 @ 5:30pm

Circle #4—February 9
(call moderator for time & location)

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

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."

Steeple Fund:

In honor of Jesus as we celebrate His birth,
and in memory of Joe and all the other Saints who have passed
by *Dot Wimer and Family*

In memory of John Marquardt by *Debra Smith*

In memory of Olen and Gladys Bennett and Rev. Donna Coffman
by *Camilla and Johnsey Cabaniss*

In memory of Joseph A. Wimer, Sr. by *Sandra Sayre*

In memory of Edna Buffaloe by *Gary and Diane Walker*

In memory of Berkley Key by *Dot Wimer*

In memory of Murray and Virginia Young, Donald Young
Dayton and Mabel Stone
Shirley Hostetter Ferris
by *Buddy and Margie Young*

In memory of Cecil and Delilah Ervin by *Paul and Brenda Linkenhoker*

In honor of Marlene Faidley, Janet Linkenhoker, and Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
by *Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

Memorials:

In memory of Olen and Gladys Bennett by *Kevin Bennett*

Sympathy

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

Sybil Bennett Downey ~ *mother-in-law of Debbie Mottern Bennett*

Earl Wayne Whitmer ~ *member, father of Gary Whitmer*

Frances Marshall ~ *member*

Katie Caldwell Moody ~ *sister-in-law of Linda Slayton Caldwell*

February Birthdays

- 1 Jerry Ray Taylor
- 2 Tyson Uzzell
Payson Bennett Riley
- 3 Kelley Tingler
- 4 Paul Linkenhoker
- 6 Betty Gibson
Julia Bryant
- 8 Pat Whitmer
Summit Caul
- 9 Amanda Webb
- 10 Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
Mason Hale
- 13 Adam Tingler
- 16 B. R. Rupert
- 17 Gerald Gibson, Jr.
- 20 Bobby Rice
Chad Thompson
- 21 Tonya Jones
- 22 Dorothy Thompson
- 23 Craig Poague
Brittany Young-Baker
- 27 Sandy Persinger

Anniversaries

- 10 Dorothy & Terry Thompson
- 28 Brandi & Justin Barr

Thank You Notes

Thank you for thinking of me at this Christmas season with the wonderful gift bag.

Joyce Bartley

Dear McAllister Church & Friends,

May the true spirit of Christmas bring you peace and happiness the whole year through!

God Bless you and yours! Love and miss all of you dear members and friends! *Linda Payton Wolfe, Sherry W. Ford & Family, Lori W. Isaacs & Family*

Dear Members,

Please accept my “Thank You” for all your thoughts and prayers through the past year! Your gifts have been so nice and welcome. God Bless all of you.

Love, Etha Hayslett

Dearest Choir Members,

Thank you all for the thoughtful and generous gifts you surprised us with at Christmas. We have enjoyed our decorative goodies throughout the season and are looking forward to experiencing something new at the Salt Cave in White Sulphur. How exotic! I’m sure we’ll return from our adventure relaxed and transformed! Thank you for your kindness and thank you for your dedication to music at McAllister.

Fondly, Beth and Andy Dreszer

Chuck and I wish to say Thank You to our church family for the cards, gifts and best wishes we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. It was good to see all of you who braved the cold to come out and say, “Hi.” We are truly blessed by each and every one of you. *Chuck and Jean Bartley*

Musical Minute:

When I came back to play at McAllister in 2017, one of the things that I most looked forward to was rekindling old friendships after having been away from the area for more than 20 years. While we’ve all changed and grown, it has been so rewarding and comforting to step back into the fold of the McAllister church family. An unexpected benefit to returning was forging a new friendship with our church secretary, Janet Linkenhoker. From my very first day back, Janet has been a supportive and kind coworker. As we interacted over church matters, it didn’t take us long to realize that we have a great deal in common and a personal bond was quickly formed.

I have always appreciated Janet’s professional approach to her work, her gentle and calm demeanor (In my experience she is basically unflappable!), and her meticulous attention to detail. We have pored over hundreds of bulletins and scores of newsletters together over the last almost five years looking for the elusive typo hiding in plain sight! She was instrumental during the Organ Restoration Fund campaign, keeping track of hundreds of donations, large and small, and acknowledging in writing every individual who contributed. She provided me almost weekly with lists of names so that I could keep up with my own thank you notes. Once when I arrived to play for a funeral service, I was stopped by a family member and asked if I could “type this up” so that it could be placed in the casket with his family member. It was an inspirational quote that he had seen on his way to the church that day that had touched his heart in a meaningful way. I promptly gave it to Janet (with my apologies for the late notice) and she returned within minutes with the quote beautifully and tastefully printed on heavy card stock. She is a virtual vault of institutional memory when it comes to McAllister and over these last years I have relied on her to fill me in on events—births, marriages, deaths, etc.—that took place during the decades I missed. I know that in addition to the many tasks on which we’ve worked together, Janet wears many other hats in her role as church secretary and treasurer. Which is why we will all miss her when she soon leaves us to begin her new adventures as a retiree.

Janet is a real renaissance woman with a wealth of talents and a variety of interests. She is naturally inquisitive and has never stopped learning or exploring. She is a gifted artist, jewelry maker, skilled seamstress, cake decorator extraordinaire, gardener, dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother, and I’m sure she is many other things that I don’t even know about. In other words, the woman has things to do and places to go! Thank you, Janet, for your love and support over the last years. Your friendship is a source of strength and joy to me. I wish you health and happiness as you start this exciting new chapter in your life. Godspeed!

Beth



To Our Dear McAllister Church Family,

Thank you so much for many cards and notes you have sent. Special thanks to Circles #2 and #4 for your notes sent on numerous occasions. Thank Beth, for your heart warming notes, also we truly enjoy Musical Minute in the monthly newsletter. And, Thank you Pastor Jim for your inspirational messages in the newsletters. Much thanks to Marlene for delivering the beautiful red and green blankets and the yummy jars of jam.

May God Bless you All, *Patsy Parker and Gay Nell*