

McAllister Messenger

August 2022

A Word From Your Pastor

~The Joy of Children in Church~

As I write these words, we are in the middle of our week of Vacation Bible School. It has been a joyous time so far, as the Fellowship Hall has filled with the energy and laughter of children each night at 6:00. They have enjoyed supper together; then gathered for the opening assembly in the sanctuary; then gone to their special classes for music, crafts, recreation, and story telling; and then had a closing assembly.

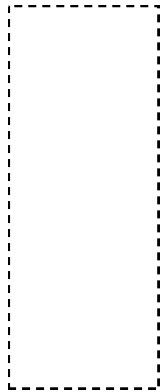
Throughout it all, it has been wonderful to hear their voices, feel their energy, and experience their enthusiasm. What a great thing it is indeed to have the church full of the sounds of children!

The success of Vacation Bible School mirrors the return of children that we have experienced in worship lately. Over the last couple of months, we have seen children in worship for the first time since Covid hit. It has been truly uplifting each Sunday for me to look out from the pulpit to see the front part of the church filled with children, then to have them come forward for the children's sermon, and then to send them on their way to children's church. I don't mind a bit if they are a bit noisy, even if they make noise during the time of quiet reflection after the Prayer of Confession.

The chance to welcome children into church is something that Jesus models for us in the Gospels. Luke 18: 15-16 says the following: "People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.'"

So let us welcome our children with open arms. May they experience in our church the love and warmth that Jesus showed to the children that were brought to him. This is of vital importance. After all, they are the future of the church. And from what we are seeing this week during Vacation Bible School, that future looks bright indeed!

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



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Happy Birthday

- 1st Charity Hale
Debbie Kennedy
Dianne Mahan
Missy Reid
- 2nd Aiden Riley
- 5th Kylene Riley Smith
Jerry Givens, Jr.
- 7th Chase Carper
- 8th Robbie Weikle
Lelia Fadley
Levi Bartley
- 10th Mikayla Webb
- 11th Kevin Scott Young
- 12th Branden Hill
- 14th Bob Crush
Rachel Ann Hannah
- 15th Cathy Rowan
Holden Patrick Downer
- 16th Brigitte Young
- 18th Jim Faidley
- 20th Jennifer Markham
- 21st Marc Downer
- 22nd Larry O'Rourke
April Rowland
- 23rd Darlene Taylor
Craig Nicely
- 24th Reagan Paitzel
- 25th Bonnie Patterson
Evan Nicely
- 26th Eric Hill
Gary Whitmer
Brandon Weese
- 27th Jill Shifflett-Ramsey
Michael Whitehead
- 29th Jean Casey
- 30th Susan Sponaugle
- 31st Stacey Bryant

- August 6—Heroshima Day
- August 9—International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- August 14—Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula
- August 19—World Humanitarian Day
- August 21— Public Education Sunday



Happy Anniversary!

- 1st Stephen & Terri Carper
Larry & Josephine O'Rourke
- 6th Jerry & Lynn Whitehead
Frank & April Reynolds
- 14th Richard & Priscilla Downer
- 15th Jim & Marlene Faidley
- 17th David & Shannon Rodgers
- 20th Brian & Heather Riley
- 21st Jerry & Susan Givens
- 22nd Darrell & Donna Tucker

Prayer Concerns:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Leigh Ann Burns | Sarah Austin | Chris Crawford | Diego Basillio |
| Sue Burns | Harry Casey | Sam Hale | Matt Bowser |
| Linda Caldwell | Debbie Knick Curtis | Clyde Landis | Amanda Brumit |
| Bert Caul | Tammy Elkins | Timmy Morgan | Chris & Summit Caul |
| Alma Entsminger | Mike Hayner | Angie Poague | Evelyn Crowder |
| Lee Faidley | Mary Margaret Hogan | Don Woodward | Diane Hicks |
| Tammy Law | Richard Law | Donald Kelley (missing) | Highland Park, IL |
| Cody Long | Paul Linkenhoker | Family of Donald Kelley | Louise Humphries |
| Buzzy Riley | Johnny & Shirley Nida | Elected, Officials | Butch Kemper |
| Katie Riley (Kenzie, Cohen) | Linda Ratliff | United States & Our Troops | James Napier |
| Dennis Smith & Family | Jimmy Simpson | Ukraine & Russia | Angie Sponaugle |
| Susan Sponaugle | Frank Sponaugle | | Sawyer Young |
| Tootles Tingler | Brenda Walker | | |
| Sandra Watson | Mikayla Webb | | |
| Linda Wickham | The Kennedy Family | | |
| Shirley, Rhoda Hill's sister | The Taylor Family | | |
| The Downer Family | The Wright Family | | |
| The Persinger Family | | | |

CONSTANT NEED—Midge Akers, Erskine Back, Miki Ballengee, Bob & Leta Bartley, Gary Bartley, Linda Bogar, Harry & Jean Casey, Steven Craft, Luke Crawford, Patty Crosier, Leslie Downer, Betty Gibson, Evan Groves, Barbara Flint, Debbie Fraley, Derwood Garrett, Don Hampton, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Neil Horn, Lori Issacs, Wendell & Judy Jones, Pam Key, Pearl Miller, Sonya Milton, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Patsy Parker, Denise Pillow, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Larry & Pat Whitmer, Martha Wilhelm, Shirley Wickline, Dot & Joey Wimer, Linda Payton Wolfe, Buddy Young

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, David Lynn, Louise Humphries

SCOTT HILL—Phyllis Lynn, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

SPRINGS NURSING CENTER—Andy Howell

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Etha Hayslett, Bonnie Patterson, Martha Wilhelm



MILITARY

- Kristopher Hoffman
- Colton Poague
- Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES

- Tom & Judy Harvey
- Kurt Esslinger/Hyeyoung Lee

Margie Leavine is no longer in The Springs Nursing Center. She is now home.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and helped with the memorial service for the Taylor Family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

DEATHS

- Opal Ash
- Ray Baird
- Freddie Brackenridge
- Jerry W. Brown
- C. "Doug" Bullock
- Betty Hartsfield-Caliguire
- Ronald Chapman
- Patsy Martin-Cole
- Sharon Craft
- Randy DePriest
- John "Corky" Downer
- Marie Eisenhower
- Francis Elmore

- Jean V. Elmore
- Bessie Forgie
- Matthew Frazier
- H. "Lang" Gilbert, Sr.
- Donna Goodson
- Helen Griffith
- Terry Hall, Sr.
- Larry Halsey
- J. "Tom" Harris
- Richard Hastings, Sr.
- Charlotte Hilton
- Janice "Patty" Jeffries
- Haily Jones
- Lt. Donald C.W. Junior
- Susan Taylor Kennedy

- "Pat" C. King
- Robert Leviness
- Charlotte W.M. Loughner
- Nancy Loan
- Otis Marshall, Jr.
- Francis May
- Berkley Mays
- Kevin Meadows
- Reginald "Buddy" Miller
- Michael W. McCulley
- Thomas Neal
- Berkley Persinger
- Sandra H. Persinger
- William B. Persinger
- Jack Lee Powell

- R. "Moe" Puryear
- Barbara Showalter
- Julia Mae Smith
- Edna Tigrett
- Sandy Thompson
- Mellie Walton
- Donald Webb
- Alan Wills
- Joseph "Zeke" Wright





Notes From Pastor Jim

♦ Vacation Bible School took place July 24 through July 28 and was a big success! We had about 40 children total participate, as well as nearly 30 volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this week possible! We look forward to doing it all again next summer.

♦ The youth are having a paddle trip/cook-out on Sunday, August 14 – and the whole church is invited! We are going to take a trip down the Jackson River and then cook-out our supper at the Sponaugles’ place. If you would like to kayak or canoe with us, please call Margaret Moss (434-738-8512), and we will get you more details about the trip.

♦ There is a new Facebook Group for the Presbyterian Churches of the Highlands area. It will serve to share events that the churches are doing together, to share individual church events, and to have conversations about our ministries. If you would like to join, please do a Facebook search for “Highlands Presbyterian Neighborhood” or go to the following web address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/365891562375362>

The front door of the church (at the offices) is now remaining locked during office hours. A camera/doorbell combo has been installed for added security. Please ring the bell if you need assistance during these hours. Thank you.

~ Blessed are the givers... And grateful are the receivers.

McAllister Church “Family”,

Thank you so much for all of the support we have received from all of you. We have truly felt the warmth and love! Thanks so much for providing a meal [after the memorial service].

The Taylor Family



2022 Vacation Bible School was a success with approximately 40 children participating and 30 volunteers in attendance!

To those who kindly donated to the 2022 Vacation Bible School, we truly appreciate your generosity:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mildred McCabe | Chuck & Jean Bartley |
| Betty Gibson | Debbie Bennett |
| Debbie & Danny Rodgers | June Cooke |
| Gary Bartley | Diane Hicks |
| Bucky & Doris Mottern | Linda Wickham |
| Pam Key | The Duncans |
| Dorothy Wimer | Lee Ann Poague |
| Paula Stull | Mike & Bridgette Young |
| Lee & Lelia Faidley | Steve Craft |
| Bobby & Anita Rice | Richard & Leslie Downer |
| Terry & Dorothy Thompson | Paul Riley |
| Ed Gibson | James & Carol Bush |
| Pam Poague | Gary & Diane Walker |
| Andy & Beth Dreszer | Marshall & Donna Fox |
| Greg & Lisa Dickson | Gary Rice |
| Kylene Smith | Harry & Jean Casey |
| Frank & Susan Sponaugle | Danny & Rhoda Hill |
| Butch & Norma Curtin | |

Also, thank you to all of those that gave through the regular church offering and anonymously.

Volunteers!! You guys were fantastic and we absolutely could not have done it without you. Thank you so much for your commitment.



Musical Minute:

With the high humidity and furnace-like heat of recent weeks, I've had cool water on my mind. More precisely, while lugging around the watering can to water our flower pots, I've found myself humming the tune to "Cool Water." It's not a song that I know particularly well, but I do remember the end of the refrain, "Cool, clear water." Written in the 1930s and featured in several western films over the decades, it's a song about a man and his horse (or was it a mule?) and their fruitless search for water as they make their way through the arid desert.

Thankfully I've never wandered alone through the desert, thirsty or otherwise, with just my horse for company, but I have experienced the miracle of cool, clear water. When Nick and I were young, mom and dad rented a camp on the Jackson River from the Parker family. There we whiled away the summer months in a weathered, gray two-story cabin right on the banks of the Jackson. The rustic cabin had electricity, but there was no water indoors. Still, we had the next best thing—perhaps even the very best thing—just outside the back door of the camp. Near the door was a majestic chestnut tree, and miraculously, at least it appeared miraculous to me, from beneath the hollowed trunk of this towering tree, an underground spring flowed up. Its water was as cold as ice and if you drank it too quickly directly from the pipe that ran from below the tree, you'd get a sudden, sharp headache. Years before we inhabited the camp, someone had built a short, low bridge of rock and cement block that spanned the spring. Mom and dad kept an old enamel-ware dipper near the spring and we could stand on that little bridge and scoop as many dippers we could ever possibly drink. Over the years, the spring had cut its own path to the river and after crossing under the bridge, it gurgled toward the river, sustaining a tasty and vibrant green patch of water cress along the way. The faucet ran endlessly with bracingly cold, perfectly clear water and we could hear its comforting constancy at night through the open window of our upstairs bedrooms.


When we swam in the river, which we did pretty much from dawn to dusk when the weather allowed, the water from the spring outlet was so frigid, we'd get foot cramps if we swam too close to the riverbank as we passed. There was a small refrigerator in the camp, but anything that needed swift or prolonged chilling (canned beverages, whole watermelon, etc.) went directly from the Jeep into the spring, completely bypassing the cabin. Nick and I remember the camp years as a magical time, although we now realize that the whole endeavor took significant effort on mom and dad's part. Any time we needed hot water, say, for washing

dishes, we'd help mom haul it in so she could heat it in a huge old kettle on the electric coil cooktop. She would do the dishes in two wash basins in the dry sink. I remember dad shaving at the spring in the mornings before he'd go to work at Westvaco, mirror in hand and his big, chilly "Brrrrrrr!" waking us up from our summer dreams.

Andy and I had the opportunity to kayak the Jackson with friends several summers ago and we put in a couple of miles north of where the camp once stood. I knew that the cabin was long gone, but as we approached its former site, I recognized some familiar landmarks on the opposite side of the river and looked across to see if anything tangible remained of the place that had brought us such joy. It was high summer, so everything was overgrown, and I couldn't see even a tiny remnant to tell that the camp had ever been there. The cabin had boasted a beautiful rock chimney that ran one whole side of the two-story structure, so it was remarkable, and admittedly, a bit sad, to see that absolutely nothing remained. But I'm guessing that the spring, "our" spring, is still there, flowing from its mysterious origin, deep underground, making its way to the river and keeping the fish cool.

Whether you sit by the pool, the river, the lake, the creek, or even in the cool comfort of your home while watching a nature program on television, I hope that you find respite from the heat in the ripples of "cool, clear water" this summer. Just like childhood, summer will be over before we know it. Enjoy!

Beth

 <p><u>PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN</u></p> <p>Circle 3: Tuesday, August 16, 5:30 at the church</p> <p>Circle 4: Wednesday, August 10th, 12:30 at the church</p>	<p><u>Adult Choir & Bible Study</u></p> <p>Adult Choir & Adult Bible Study will not meet regularly for the remainder of "summer". Both will resume after Labor Day.</p>
<p><u>Sept. Newsletter Deadline</u></p> <p>Please submit information, prayer requests, or updates/corrections by email, U.S. mail, or phone. August newsletter deadline is Friday, August 19th. Thank You.</p>	<p><u>NOTICE</u></p> <p>New email addresses: Paul.Riley@mcallisttermempcusa.org April.Rowland@mcallisttermempcusa.org</p> <p><i>Thank you Andy Dreszer for setting these up!</i></p>