

# McAllister Messenger

MAY 2022

## ~A Word From Your Pastor~

### The Ongoing Joy of Easter

It was a beautiful Easter Sunday, wasn't it? It all began as we gathered at Cliff View Golf Club for the sunrise service. As we heard the story of the empty tomb, there was a slight chill in the air, much as I imagine there was on that first Easter morning.

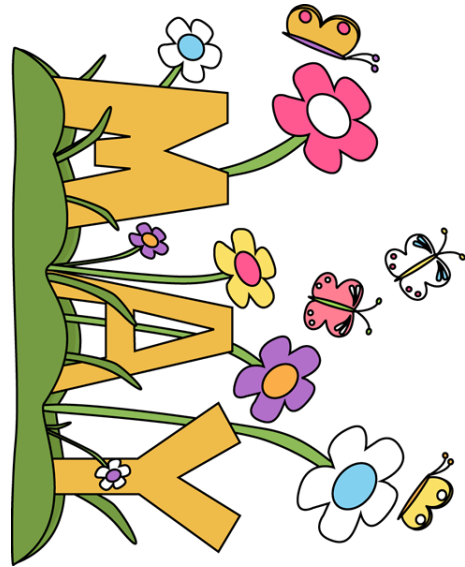
Then, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall and shared delicious breakfast dishes prepared by the adult Sunday school class. After that, we went to Sunday school. The youth wrestled with how to portray the glory of the empty tomb in a picture, and I assume the adult class talked about the resurrection and what it means for our lives as well.

Finally, we all moved to the sanctuary for an uplifting Easter service. We were thrilled to have 101 in attendance, the first time we have topped the century mark since the pre-Covid days. All in all, it was indeed a glorious Sunday as we celebrated the fact that "he is risen, indeed!"

But here's the good news: The joy of Easter doesn't stop on Easter Sunday. In fact, according to our Christian calendar, Easter is a season. It lasts for seven Sundays (or 50 days), going right up to Pentecost Sunday – which falls on June 5 this year. We get to celebrate the glory of the resurrection during these entire 50 days, reveling in the fact that Christ died on the cross and was raised again on the third day in order to save us from our sins and bring us the great gift of eternal life. Sin and death have been defeated for all time!

So let's continue to say "Hallelujah, he is risen!" in our hearts throughout this Easter season. Let's continue to celebrate just as we did on Easter Sunday. May we be filled with joy and peace throughout this Easter season!

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



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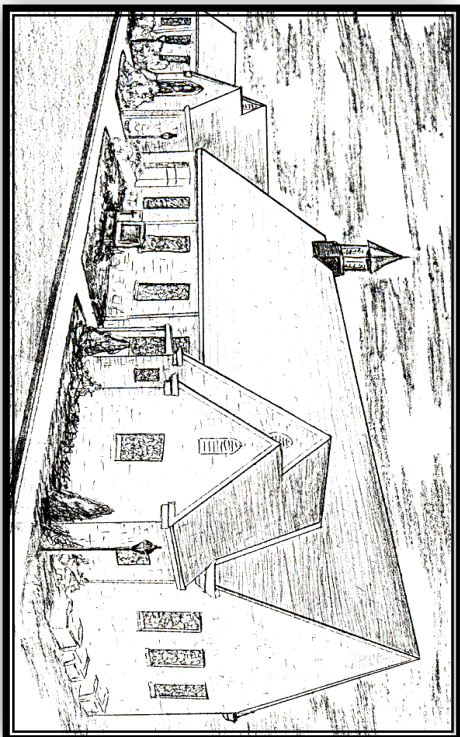
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## Notes From Pastor Jim

- ~ We will be having a churchwide lunch on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, immediately following worship. Please bring a covered dish to share.
- ~ Bible study has resumed. We meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently in the middle of a study of the Book of Acts. Please join us!
- ~ Thank you to everyone who donated candy and helped bring other goodies to the Children's Easter Egg Hunt and the Youth Easter Egg Hunt held on Good Friday. Thank you also to everyone who brought food for the Easter morning breakfast. All three events were a success!

## Next Session Meeting

**SUNDAY, MAY 15th**

*\*immediately  
following church service*

We hope all session members will be able to attend.



## Presbyterian Women

**Circle #3**—Tuesday, May 10  
@ 5:30pm at the church

**Circle #4**—Wednesday,  
May 11 @ 1:00pm at the church

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

**The church office will be  
CLOSED on May 30th in  
observance of  
Memorial Day.**



## Prayer Concerns

Karen Bowles	Margie Leavine	Robert Jackson	Debbie Fraley
Chris Ann Carson	Buddy Young	Ryan Alexander	Don Hampton
Dave Wenke	Gary Scruggs	Pauline Nickell	Allen Hickman
Emily Rodgers	Leon & Willow Porterfield	Ellen Pearman	Danny & Rhoda Hill
Sandra Sayre Family	Greg Porterfield	United States	Neil Horn
Donald Kelley (missing)	Fred Luzrader	Ukraine & Russia	Lori Issacs
Family of Donald Kelley	Dolly Whitehead	COVID-19 victims	Wendell & Judy Jones
Rose Fisher	Patty Crosier		Pam Key
Keaton Fisher	Dawn Grimm Burks	<b><u>CONSTANT NEED:</u></b>	Pearl Miller
Ed Gibson	Mary Brown	Midge Akers	Sonya Milton
Anita Rice	Allen Hickman	Erskine Back	Bucky & Doris Mottern
James Hoover	Mandy Mayse Shepherd & Family	Miki Ballengee	Patsy Parker
Ruby Stull		Bob & Leta Bartley	Denise Pillow
Bert Seay	Joe Reid	Linda Bogar	Ethan Thompson
Linda Fuller	Bonnie Barton	Harry & Jean Casey	Buddy Vass
Kenny Lowman	Donnie Adams	Steven Craft	Larry & Pat Whitmer
Steve Meadows	Etha Hayslett	Luke Crawford	Martha Wilhelm
Shelby Rock	Midge Akers	Leslie Downer	Shirley Wickline
Chrystal Vess	Travis O'Rourke	Betty Gibson	Dot & Joey Wimer
Tootles Tingler	Van Walker	Evan Groves	Linda Payton Wolfe
Pearl Miller	Arthur Bryan	Barbara Flint	Buddy Young
Bob & Dorothy Bush	Miranda Smithers		

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, David Lynn, Ruby Stull

SCOTT HILL—Phyllis Lynn, Sarah Mays, Mary Whitehead

SPRINGS NURSING CENTER—Andy Howell

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

### MILITARY

Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead

### MISSIONARIES

Tom & Judy Harvey  
Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung Lee



## DEATHS

Shirley Albright	Ruby Gordon	Douglas D. Mattox	Laura Shaffier
Barry Atkins	Eugene Higgins	Walker Lewis May	Tom Shepherd, III
Vickie Blackburn	Robert W. Honts	Elizabeth McCoy	Francis Smith
Chuck Bradley	Stacy Jeter, Sr.	Donnie Nelson	Kay Showalter
Rev. James Dorson	Dormal Jackson	Jimmy O'Conner	Dolly Van Ness
Donnie Crosier	Julie Kelly	Mary Hardy O'Neil	Doug Vest
Michelle Carpenter	Robert W. Lacks	Clifford Persinger, Sr.	
Carolyn Gallow	Faye Malcolm	Joseph Schneider	

## Newsletter Submissions

Please submit newsletter information and prayer requests by email, U.S. mail, or by phone. Deadline for the JUNE newsletter is May 18, 2022.

## ***Easter Lilies & Gifts of Remembrance 2022***

### **In Memory:**

**Teresa Powell** by Joe & Pat Martin  
**A.A. Hayslett** by The Hayslett Family  
**Earl “Trucky” Lemon** by Carole Lemon  
**Mr. & Mrs. Edward Back, Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. Walter Walker** by Van & Brenda Walker  
**Bonnie Rice** by Gary Rice & Family  
**Jack, Helen, Jesse, Brian, Richard, Jonathan, Wallace O’Conner, Ashley Hepler, Bobby Wilhelm, and Trucky Lemon** by Their Family  
**Berkley Key** by Pam Key  
**Gil & Loressa Poague** by Pam Key  
**Bill & Janet Gurd and Matthew W. Rodgers** by Debbie Rodgers  
**Libby Riley & Lucas Riley** by Buzzy Riley, Kylene Smith, Katie Riley, and grandchildren  
**Virgil & Nita Bartley** by Rick & Leslie Downer  
**Phillip Terry** by Rick & Leslie Downer  
**Jack & Ethel Downer** by Rick & Leslie Downer  
**Ginger & Pookie Leitch** by Beth & Andy Dreszer  
**Anna & Richard Dreszer** by Beth & Andy Dreszer  
**Elizabeth & Pete Necolau** by Maria Necolau  
**Nancy & Carl Nicely** by Maria Necolau  
**Past Members** by Larry & Gail Washburn



### **In Honor:**

**Our Children** by Jean & Harry Casey  
**Maria Necolau** by Callie & Kinley Uzzell  
**And Memory of Family Members** by Marshall & Donna Fox  
**Larry & Gail Washburn** by Missy & Shane Reid  
**Callie Uzzell, Kinley Uzzell, and Margaret Griffith** by Maria Necolau  
**Priscilla & Richard Downer** by Rick & Leslie Downer  
**Tammy Scruggs-Duncan** by Bath Dreszer  
**The Adult Choir & Children’s Choir** by Beth Dreszer

### **Monetary Gifts:**

**In Memory of Frank & Ethel Sponaugle, David & Bobbie Reynolds, Buck & Kay Ray** by Frank & Susan Sponaugle  
**In Memory of Gerald W. Gibson, Sr. & Stacey Gibson** by Betty Gibson  
**In Memory of Grover Barnett, Sr., Kenneth & Virginia Jamison, Clarence Bush, Sr. & Mary Bush** by Dorothy & Bob Bush and Tim & Rhonda Barnett

**LAST CALL**

Applicants for the Scott Scholarship may pick up an application in the church office—due back by May 22, 2022. The June newsletter will feature current winners as well as an ode to past recipients. **ATTENTION GRADUATES**—we would love to recognize you/your 2022 graduates in the June edition. Please submit their name, school/degree, and any other noteworthy items you wish to the church office via phone, email, or U.S. Mail.

### MEMORIALS:

**In Memory of Kitty Carson** by Mr. & Mrs. John Price

**In Memory of Teresa Powell** by Edgar & Linda Perkins  
by Jim & Marlene Faidley

**In Memory of Edward O’Rourke** by Travis, Jeri, Larry & Josephine  
O’Rourke

**In Memory of Gerald, Sr. & Stacey Gibson** by Betty Gibson

**In Memory of Annie & Harry Stinespring** by The Cooke Family

### STEEPLE FUND:

**In Memory of Teresa Powell** by Buddy & Margie Young  
by Pearl Miller

**In Memory of Kitty Carson** by Buddy & Margie Young

**In Memory of Steve Nida** by Buddy & Margie Young

**In Memory of Wayne Whitmer** by Buddy & Margie Young

**In Memory of John “JW” Marquardt** by Buddy & Margie Young

**In Memory of Audrey (Barnett) & Kenneth Jamison** by Tim & Rhonda

**Memorials & Gifts**

**Thank You!**

Thanks so much for the lovely cards, notes, flowers, thoughts and prayers on my birthday. They truly made my day very special. God bless each of you. ~Travis O’Rourke

Dear Fellow Members of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for the beautiful flowers and for remembering me on my birthday, Monday March 28th. All of you are so nice to keep me in your prayers, send cards and call throughout the year! I feel truly blessed & appreciate everything you do, and especially having all of you as friends. God Bless you all.  
~Etha Hayslett

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,  
This note comes with sincere thanks for your kind contribution to the COPE Food Pantry. We are most grateful for your continued support in remembering the pantry and the needs of our community.  
~ Meredith Downey, COPE Secretary

**THE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN  
THE MONTH OF APRIL WAS 69. (50/83/101/43)**

# Happy Birthday!

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Shelly Curtis  
Zak Nida  
Carter Hudson
- 5<sup>th</sup> Erik Young  
David Sponaugle
- 6<sup>th</sup> Angie Poague
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jeri O'Rourke
- 9<sup>th</sup> Doris Mottern
- 11<sup>th</sup> Gina Tingler
- 13<sup>th</sup> Carole Lemon
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jerry Whitehead  
Darlene Thompson  
Eric Webb
- 15<sup>th</sup> Van Walker  
Rachel Reyms
- 16<sup>th</sup> James Bush, Sr.  
Maggie Webb
- 17<sup>th</sup> Butch Curtin  
Lee Fadley
- 19<sup>th</sup> Amelia Nicely
- 21<sup>st</sup> Shirley Ferris
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jenni Hinton
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Brenda Walker
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dwain Tyree  
Gary Walker
- 25<sup>th</sup> Andrew Crawford  
Jacob Downer  
Tyler Bartley
- 26<sup>th</sup> Ruth Caul  
Carl Irvine  
Bunny King
- 28<sup>th</sup> Gus Hayslett  
Jenny Crawford



- 6th—Steve & Donna Craft
- 11th—Butch & Norma Curtin
- 22nd—Eric & Amanda Webb
- 30th—Cody & Katie Nida



*Congratulations to Holden & Mahaley (Reyms) Broughman on their wedding that occurred at McAllister Church on Saturday, April 2, 2022. Best wishes from everyone at McAllister Church. May God bless you both with a lifetime of shared love and joy.*



*Jacob & Madeline Downer announce the birth of their second child, Ryland "Riley" Michael Downer, on March 29, 2022. (7lbs, 5 oz., 18 inches). Riley has a big sister, Bennett Diane Downer, 2 years. Paternal grandparents are Rick & Leslie Downer. Maternal grandparents are Mark & Kate Duff and Stephanie Sloan Duff. Great grandparents are Richard & Priscilla Downer, Mrs. Philip (Jean) Terry, and Cora Duff.*

# Musical Minute:

Spring's stealth never fails to astonish me. As winter howls its last hurrah—and this year it fooled us on several occasions only to come roaring back with a vengeance—we eagerly await any sign that the weather will soon turn. For us, one of the first signs of Spring's promise is the strappy foliage of the daffodils, stubbornly and persistently emerging from the leaf debris under the oak trees. How miraculous to see the pale buds form as we anxiously look for that early hint of color, sometimes convincing ourselves it's there when, in fact, we still have weeks to wait.

While we were living overseas and long before Andy retired, we made the decision that Virginia would one day be our forever home. Not knowing when that day might arrive, we occasionally perused online real estate listings from Alleghany, Bath, and Highland counties. It was a fun exercise, but retirement seemed far away and we weren't particularly focused on the search. At the same time, mom kept her eyes and ears open for places closer to Covington that we might one day call home. In mid-2004, she shared a listing from the Virginian Review with us. We were interested enough that mom arranged to have someone come and take photos of the house and send them to us online. (This was before the days that virtual tours of homes were standard.) We were so intrigued by the photos that we rearranged our scheduled visit for that year and flew home to see the place. With the help of mom and others, we closed on our new home in October of 2004, almost six years before I would return to Covington after mom's terminal cancer diagnosis.

As you well know, an empty house still requires tending, and this arrangement worked only thanks to mom and an army of helpers, most importantly our neighbors, various members of the Jackson family. They not only kept an eye on the house, they also kept an eagle eye on mom, assuring the safety of her comings and goings. While there was a lot that we couldn't do with the house until we were in residence, my husband the former forester knew that even in our absence, things could still grow. (Well—things that deer, rabbits, and squirrels don't eat!)

We enlisted the help of W.L. Dressler, a skilled plantsman and landscaper, and an absolute warrior when it came to battling our rocky soil. Andy and W.L. sketched out the first round of foundation plantings and Andy made sure to include daffodils—lots of daffodils! W.L. continued to help out each year we were away and Andy took advantage of each home visit to make additional plantings, clean up derelict areas around the house, and plant a new tree or two. Almost every year since we've been home, Andy continues to plant daffodil bulbs each fall and thanks to the varieties he's chosen, we now have about a six week window with daffodils in bloom. I love the vegetables, herbs, and colorful annuals of summer, but they all require frequent maintenance and oversight. The daffodils, iris, and peonies that we've planted over the years and the native redbud, dogwood, and spring wildflowers simply come up of their own accord and on a schedule that only they know. They bring us such joy! It reminds me of "Hymn of Promise," the Natalie Sleeth song that has become a "perennial" favorite at McAllister:

"In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Many of you are dedicated and skilled gardeners and I know you've spent years and even decades tending and nurturing your flowers and vegetable gardens as well as community gardens. The beauty of this spring arrived with more than a fair share of turmoil in the world, and it amazes me how the rhythms of nature roll along regardless. Gardeners plant, cross their fingers, and have faith. And God and Mother Nature don't fail us. I hope that by looking out your own window over the coming weeks, you'll find joy deep in your soul and peace in your heart. Take good care. ~Beth