

McAllister Messenger

September 2022

A Word from Your Pastor ~ “Lessons from COVID”

This past week, the Covid virus hit the Moss household. One by one, we all fell victim to this illness. It has been a difficult week, as both Margaret and I suffered with symptoms that – while not bad enough to put us in the hospital – were still not much fun. I especially suffered over the weekend with a fever, headache, chills, sore throat, and cough. And I continued to test positive over this past week, even after I was feeling better.

This bout with COVID has reminded me of several things. First, it has reminded me that as a human being, I have limits. It has been a humbling experience. This has been especially true since I am a pastor. Sometimes, we might think that we are above such things, that since we are in an ordained role, we have special protection. Being sick – especially sick with something like COVID – reminds us that we are no different from anyone else. We are susceptible to the same physical limitations and illnesses as everybody else. Second, being sick with COVID has reminded me how no one lives on an island – how what we do has an effect on other people. The decisions one makes when one has tested positive affect not just one’s own health, but the health of all those around oneself. It especially affects those who are closest to us in our immediate families. Having this illness reminds us not to think that what we do in all areas of life affects more than just ourselves. Finally, having COVID has reminded me what it means to be part of a caring community. I have appreciated the phone calls and emails of concern. I even had someone make me chicken soup! It can be challenging to know what to do for someone who has COVID, but this congregation has shown me ways to do it. I appreciate all of your care and concern, and look forward to the time when I can return to caring for all of you. May God be with us as we continue to struggle against this difficult pandemic!

~Jim

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



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 9/16/22

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

900 N. Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

(540) 962-2675

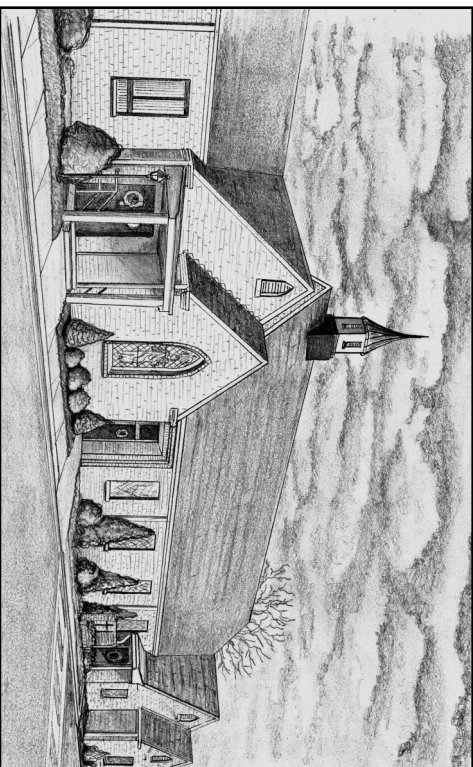
e-mail - admin@mcallistermempusa.org

Website: mcallistermempusa.org
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

Email—revjimmos95@gmail.com



BULK RATE
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Musical Minute:



Lately, our garden has been cranking out cucumbers, peppers, and zucchini by the bucket-full; certainly enough for the two of us with some to spare. Thanks to the generosity of our fellow farmers at McAllister (We love you, Poagues!) and our garden plot, we've not needed to shop the produce section at the local stores for several weeks now. It's an easy time of year for meal-planning, heavy on the veggies and light on the meat, save for an occasional pork chop on the grill. Although they're a little time-consuming, my new favorite is zucchini pancakes. With a dollop of sour cream or a spoonful or two of fresh tomato salsa, they're the epitome of summer on a plate—fresh, savory, and satisfying. Every meal, whether a hot dog on a bun or something more creative, comes beautifully garnished with fresh herbs and maybe a few zingy-flavored nasturtium blooms. The frilly nasturtiums with their saturated hues elevate even the humblest meal to art. There is usually a blue Mason jar of zinnias—such joyful flowers with their bright yellow crowns!—on the table, paired with pungent stems of herbs and whatever else is blooming in the cutting garden. Summer will be over before we know it, so we try to make the most of the season's tender offerings once the garden starts to come in.

When we lived in Austria, we were just outside of Graz, the country's second largest metropolis. Although only about twenty-five minutes north of the city, we were well and truly in the countryside, surrounded by small family farms. They were purposefully and precisely tended and farmed throughout the course of the year. Our summer neighbors included grazing cattle (a fascinating, smelly, source of entertainment for our Black Russian Terrier, Mila, who spent time just opposite the fence from our bovine friends), fields of corn, pumpkins, sunflowers, and grains. It was a peaceful and bucolic settlement, just perfect really, and living there gave me deep respect and appreciation for the challenging life of a farm family. "To every thing there is a season," took on real meaning for me during our years there as I observed our closest neighbors, the Thonhausers, fertilize, plow, sow, harvest, and repeat—year after year. Their livelihood and the security of their pantry for the winter months depended on their efforts. Our property line ended maybe 15 feet from our back step and we learned from our landlords that our home had at one time been part of the Thonhauser family farm. Their daughter and son-in-law lived just below us on land that had been given to them on the occasion of their marriage. Beyond our back fence was a steep upward incline—a grassy hill where, in addition to a small upper field, the Thonhausers grew hay for animal feed. The hill was too pitched to be cut with machinery, and Andy and I marveled each fall as we watched Herr Thonhauser, a wiry, elderly man, cut the whole hillside with a huge scythe, his pace measured and the arc of the scythe sweeping and steady. One of the most memorable images of my whole lifetime is of Herr Thonhauser standing at the top of his hill, silhouetted by the setting sun, the scythe resting on his shoulder as he surveyed the day's work. How I've wished over the years that I could have painted that scene—to



~ McAllister Church extends sympathy to the family of John "Corky" Downer, brother of Richard Downer, Sr.

~ McAllister Church extends sympathy to the family of Margaret Nicely, mother of Lynn Whitehead.

~ McAllister Church also extends sympathy to the family of Pat Whitmer (member), wife of Larry Whitmer and mother of Jackie Baker, Robbie Horn, Gary Whitmer, Woody Whitmer, and Alan Whitmer.

Prayer Concerns:

Jennifer Hannah Family
Savanna Lumpkin
Waylon Nicely
Cathy Rowan
Tom Sluss
Kellen Sponaugle
Linda Wickham
Mr./Mrs. Larry Woodward
The Leitch Family
The Moss Family
Jack Butler
Elwood Cadd
Marshall Fox
Donna Gilbert Gill (TX)
Brenda Linkenhoker
Samuel Moss
Linda Ratliff
Shelby Rock
Frank Sponaugle

Gwen Lowe Wolfe
Kevin Scott Young
Larry Whitmer
Family of Pat Whitmer
Gloria Andrs
Sam Hale
Gatlin McDaniel
Colton Poague
Mrs. Porterfield
Becky & Rick Smith
Brenda Walker
Jerry Whitehead
Linda Wickham
Don Woodward
Linda Caldwell
Harry Casey
Judy Dressler
Sue Hinkle
Rickey May

Pam Poague
Teachers/Students
The Family of Pat Nicely

Elected/Appointed Officials
Non-Believers
United States & Our Troops
Ukraine & Russia
Taiwan & China
Students/Teachers/WRE

CONSTANT NEED:
Midge Akers, Erskine Back
Bob & Leta Bartley
Gary Bartley, Linda Bogar
Miki Ballengee, Matt Bowser
Harry & Jean Casey
Steven Craft, Luke Crawford
Patty Crosier, Leslie Downer

Betty Gibson, Evan Groves
Barbara Flint, Derek Garrett
Don Hampton, Lori Issacs
Danny & Rhoda Hill
Wendell & Judy Jones
Pam Key, Pearl Miller
Sonya Milton, Patsy Parker
Bucky & Doris Mottern
Denise Pillow, Buddy Vass
Ethan Thompson,
Larry Whitmer, Buddy Young
Shirley Wickline
Dot, Joey Wimer
Linda P. Wolfe
Donald Kelley (missing)
Family of Donald Kelley

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, David Lynn, Louise Humphries

SCOTT HILL—Phyllis Lynn, Sarah 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 & Jufy Harvey, Esslinger/Lee



DEATHS

Glenna Baker
Epileana Blackburn
Clyde Boone, Sr.
Irene Broce
Donnie Bryant
Patsy Burns
George Clark
Patsy Martin-Cole
Margaret Conner
Sarah Davis
J. "Corky" Downer
Marie Eisenhower

Jean V. Elmore
Bessie Forgie
Gerald Griffith
J. "Tom" Harris
E. "Ham" Harlow
L. "Eddie" Higgins
"PeeWee" Higgins, Sr.
Ilena Hileman
Charlotte Hilton
William Howard
Marian Lawler
George Leitch

"Pat" C. King
Ruth Kurnath
Berkley Mays
Francis May
"Kilroy" McComb
Michael McCulley
Adam Meadows
R. "Buddy" Miller
Patricia Nicely
Berkley Persinger
Connell Pettit
Jack Lee Powell

Vernon Quantz
Heather Reynolds
Robert Russell, Sr.
Leo Shanks
Ilene Smith
Larry Snead
James Tingler
Barbara Waldeck
Pat Whitmer
Matt Walton
Billy Williams

Notes From Pastor Jim

- **Tutelage Bag Project:** *Girls Scout Troup #718 will be placing a box in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall to collect donations for their community project serving teen girls in foster care. They are collecting items to fill their scout backpacks (bodywash, loofahs, hairbrushes/picks, shampoo/conditioner, facial cleansers, make-up wipes, lotions, hairwraps/ties, feminine products, pencils, journals, standard toiletries, deodorant).*
- **Adult Choir** resumes Tuesday, September 6th at 5:30pm. **Adult Bible Study** resumes Wednesday, September 7th at 6pm. Please join us as we pick up our study of Acts.
- The **youth kayak trip**, which had to be postponed due to inclement weather, is going to be rescheduled for a Sunday in the Fall. Please stay tuned for further information.
- The **Presbyterian churches of the Highlands** are hosting a two-day workshop on Adaptive Leadership. It will focus on ways we can be the church in these changing times. If you are interested in attending, please let Rev. Moss know (434-738-8841).

In Thanks & Appreciation

 * To Rev. Moss and our Church Family of McAllister, *
 * Thank you for the prayers, calls, visits, cards and food. It meant so much to *
 * our family at the passing of my brother "Corky". He was one-of-a-kind. *
 * Thank you all for thinking of us. God is good all of the time. *
 * In Christian Love, *
 * Richard, Priscilla and Family *

 * Dear McAllister Church Friends, *
 * We wish to thank everyone for the outpouring of love shown to our family *
 * after the loss of our mother, Margaret Nicely. Your many acts of kindness *
 * have been a comfort to us. *
 * God Bless, *
 * Jerry & Lynn Whitehead and family *

Church Website Updates!
 (www.mcallistermempcusa.org)
 Plans are underway to get our website updated ASAP. We apologize for the delay in doing so. We appreciate your patience during this process. Please be sure to let the office know of anything we may miss or any errors. Thank you.



Average AUGUST Sunday Attendance: 67

(... continued)

have captured the fading daylight and the absolute grace and dignity of that moment. But I don't paint. I'd love to tell you that after witnessing that scene, I composed something extraordinary on the piano, but I don't do that either. Instead, later that evening, I turned on the news to learn that pop star Michael Jackson had died. The headlines were, of course, exaggerated, as they often are when a celebrity passes, and I remember hearing something like, "The world has come to a grinding halt as fans throughout the globe learn of Jackson's death." No, I thought, Herr Thonhauser probably neither knows nor cares, but he did get his hillside cut today.

I enjoy my daily haul from the garden and marvel at the beauty and flavor of the fresh vegetables and flowers. The cherry tomatoes are so lovely and sweet. I confess, I even feel a little pride, but I realize that although it takes some work, it is nothing compared to the relentless toil of a real farmer. Just as in Austria, we in the Alleghany Highlands are surrounded by people who know the tireless labor it takes to raise livestock and crops. As the time of harvest comes to a crescendo in the coming weeks, I'll be t thanking God "for the beauty of the earth" and saying a prayer for all the farmers who keep our larders stocked and our bodies nourished during even the coldest months. I'm all for celebrating Thanksgiving every day of the year!

~Beth

Memorials & Gifts

IN MEMORY OF:

- *Evelyn "Tillie" Agnor
- *H. Langburn Gilbert
- *Janet Taylor Armentrout
- *Susan Taylor Kennedy
By Dot Wimer
- *Susan T. Kennedy & Janet T. Armentrout
By Joe & Pat Martin
- *Susan T. Kennedy
By Kathleen Loan
- *Robert "Bob" Bush
By Wanda Jamison
- *Patricia "Pat" Whitmer
By Rhoda & Danny Hill
By Butch & Norma Curtin



- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 4th | Eric Hayslett | 6th | Shelby Rock |
| 7th | Brenda Linkenhoker, | | Rylee Plott |
| | Benjamin Moss | | |
| 8th | Callie Uzzell | | |
| 10th | Carol Fleenor, Lennox Webb | | |
| 11th | Priscilla Downer, Darrell Tucker | | |
| 12th | Donna Craft | | |
| 13th | Deanna D'Arpa, Kenzie Cline | | |
| 19th | Karen Arahovites | | |
| 20th | Wendy Poague, Shane Reid | | |
| 21st | Conner Patterson | | |
| 22nd | Stephen Carper | | |
| 24th | Greyson Young | 25th | David Rodgers |
| 26th | Ashtyn Bishop | 27th | Samuel Moss |
| 28th | Krist Walker | | |
| 29th | Emilee Givens, Nathan Hale | | |

Anniversary

- | | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 4th | Paul & Brenda Linkenhoker |
| 5th | Grady & Garlynda Haynes |
| 7th | Chris & Sharon Rice |
| 12th | Michael & Brigitte Young |
| 20th | Craig & Angie Poague |
| 21st | Robbie & Melinda Weikle |

Let's Talk About...McALLISTER COMMITTEES/GROUPS:

SESSION—McAllister Church's Session is essentially the governing body of our church. It consists of 15 elders, elected by our congregation, who serve 3 year terms. Session meets in order to review and approve work done by it's working committees. It is lead by a chairperson and moderated by our pastor.

Session typically meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month ("Stated" meetings), directly following Sunday worship service. On occasion, an impromptu "Called" meeting can be set when necessary.

Session Members: ***Jim Faidley** (*interim chair through 2022*)

Priscilla Downer, Rick Downer, Jr., Becky Hayslett, Howard Poague, Lee Ann Poague, Bobby Joe Rice, Gary Rice, Paul Riley, Debbie Rodgers, Tammy Scruggs-Duncan, Susan Sponaugle, Gina Tingler, Brenda Walker, Mike Young

Class of 2022—Rick Downer, Jr., Gary Rice, Buzzy Riley, Susan Sponaugle, Mike Young

Class of 2023—LeeAnn Poague, Bobby Joe Rice, Tammy Scruggs-Duncan, Gina Tingler, Brenda Walker

Class of 2024—Priscilla Downer, Jim Faidley, Becky Hayslett, Howard Poague, Debbie Rodgers

Trustees — Ed Gibson, Jr., Howard Poague, Van Walker, Mike Young

SESSION WORKING COMMITTEES

McAllister Church has working committees to focus on particular areas of service to the church that include:

Property (*maintain physical condition of church premises*) - ***Gary Rice**, Howard Poague, Gary Walker, Van Walker, Mike Young

Finance (*set budget annually; church account management*)— ***Jim Faidley**, Rick Downer, Buzzy Riley, Jr., Gina Tingler, Van Walker

Commitment (*oversee church employees/policies*)—***Priscilla Downer**, Betsy Caul, Paul Linkenhoker, Lee Ann Poague, Bobby Joe Rice

Witness & Evangelism (*mobilize membership & community participation*) — ***Debbie Rodgers**, Chuck Bartley, Jean Bartley, Paul Linkenhoker, LeeAnn Poague

Music & Worship (*pulpit/worship substitutions, alter vestments, worship music*) — ***Tammy Scruggs-Duncan**, Beth Dreszer, Marshall Fox, Jim Moss, Margaret Moss

Christian Growth & Nurture (*revamp/implement new programs to get people involved*) — ***Susan Sponaugle**, Brenda Walker, Margaret Moss, Amanda Webb, Anita Rice



Presbyterian Women (2022 -'23): Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit to ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study; To support the mission of the church worldwide; To work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

The PW participates in special offerings throughout each year. The Birthday Offering meets the needs of struggling individuals in accordance with mission concerns and policies of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Least Coin Offerings are used for special projects of evangelism, service, and relief throughout the world. Thank Offering is used to support medical missions throughout the world as well as for new creative areas of mission. The PW also handle floral offerings to those hospitalized or at home long-term. Circles also remember their members on special occasions with a gift for events such as expectant mothers or brides-to-be. Handling bereavement meals and/or refreshments for church members and their families is also another task directed by the PW. Assisting with nursery supplies as needed also falls under the PW's service to our church. Presbyterian Women are also dedicated to selecting families to light the Advent candle. Needless to say, we are so grateful and thankful to have our Presbyterian Women.

Moderator: Lee Ann Poague

Vice Moderator: Pam Poague

Secretary & Historian: Betsy Caul

Treasurer: Marlene Faidley

Devotional Outreach Coordinator: Priscilla Downer

Bereavement Committee Contact Chair: Donna Fox

Search & Outreach Chair: Lee Ann Poague

Next Meeting:

**3 — Wed. 9/14,
5:30 @ church**

**4 — Tues 9/13,
12:30 @ church**

Our PW is currently comprised of two circles, "Circle 3" and "Circle 4" which typically meet on the second Tuesday/Wednesday of each month.

CIRCLE 3

Moderator/Treasurer: Marlene Faidley

Vice Moderator: Carol Bush/Gina Tingler

Card Chairman/Least Coin: Anita Boone

Members: Lee Ann Poague

Debbie Amick, Emily Amick

Leta Bartley, June Anne Cooke

Lisa Dickson, Jennifer Hannah

Diane Hicks, Amy Hoover, Tonya Jones

Pat Martin, Debbie Rodgers, Cathy

Rowan, Darlene Taylor

CIRCLE 4

Moderator/Treasurer/L.Coin: Pam Poague

Vice Moderator: Gail Washburn

Card Chairman: Anita Rice

Members: Betsy Caul, Priscilla Downer,

Lelia Fadley, Donna Fox, Rhoda Hill

Carole Lemon, Pearl Miller

Sandy Price, Susan Sponaugle

Dorothy Thompson, Brenda Walker

Dolly Whitehead, Bridgette Young

Linda Wickham (Etha Hayslett)