

McAllister Messenger

FEBRUARY 2024

A Word from Your Pastor

~ Getting Back in Shape ~

I am a warm-weather runner. I don't like getting out and running in the cold of winter. Which means that when the cold weather hits in the late fall, I stop exercising. Which means that I get out of shape. Which means that when the warm weather returns in spring, I have to get back into shape. I have to start out running short distances, and gradually increase my distance (and speed) as I slowly get back into shape.

This time to get back in shape is kind of like what Christians do in the season of Lent. Each year, after Easter, we get busy with life and we run the risk of falling out of shape spiritually. We might slack off on our prayer life, or on our Scripture reading, or on going to worship or Bible study, or on our time spent volunteering. But even if we haven't slacked off on these things, we find ourselves arriving at Ash Wednesday in need of spiritual renewal. Either way, we find Lent arriving with our souls tired and longing. We find ourselves in need of the salvation that can only be found in Jesus Christ. We find ourselves needing to get into spiritual shape before we can celebrate the joy of the resurrection on Easter.

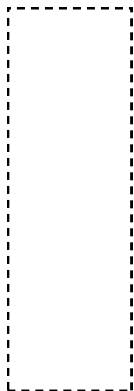
So how do we get back into shape? We can start by coming to the Ash Wednesday service, which is on February 14. At this service, we receive the ashes in a cross on our forehead, as we recognize our mortality with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

We can also get into shape by practicing the ancient spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Many people practice fasting by giving up something pleasurable for the Lenten season; prayer by connecting with God each morning and evening; and almsgiving by giving to a favorite charity.

A final way to get into shape is by participating in the Lenten Bible study. The study meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm, starting on February 21. We will be reading the book "Lent In Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield. This book is a look at how we can hear God's voice during Lent using ten ordinary objects. Please contact Rev. Moss at 434-738-8814 if you would like to order a book.

However you choose to observe Lent, make it a time to get back into spiritual shape; to draw closer to Christ; and to be ready to shout the "alleluias" on Easter morning.

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



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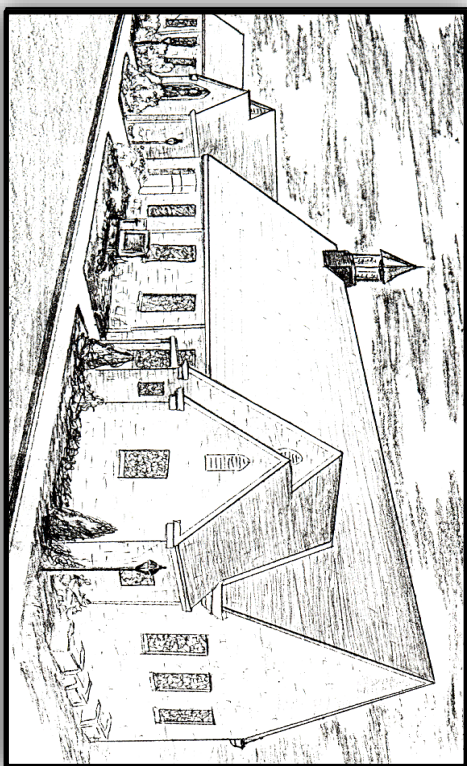
(540) 962-2675

e-mail - admin@mcallistermempcusa.org

Website: www.mcallistermempcusa.org
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone: 434-738-8841



Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

- 10 Dorothy & Terry Thompson
- 14 Dwain & Janie Tyree
- Jenni & Gene Hinton
- 28 Brandi & Justin Barr



Our church office will be closed
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th
in observance of President's Day.

hearts of individuals who, through his guidance, developed into many of the community leaders we know today.

To quote the late Horton Beirne from an editorial published in the *COVINGTON VIRGINIAN* shortly after Mr. Leitch's death, *"Pookie Leitch was a unique individual... for whom no one had an unkind word ... He was a giver. He gave to his church, he gave to his family, and he gave to his community. What he gave was not so much political or civic as other community leaders give, but what he gave was love. He loved and appreciated music and his fellow man, and he gave back this love to the community through countless performances..."*

His children, Nick and Beth, were on hand to accept the award on their father's behalf. Nick spoke for both himself and his sister, saying, *"I think that what Dad really stood for was doing the hard WORK that was arts-related – whether it was making the music, hauling the musicians, setting up the scenery, taking down the scenery, selling the band fruit, or picking up newsprint for the band paper drives. Whatever the work was that needed to be done, Dad was there to do it. So, I believe very firmly that the legacy our father has left is the community's sense of duty and responsibility, as exemplified by the Allegheny Highlands Arts Council to go out and do the work that needs to be done, so thank you very much and may our father's legacy continue in the work that you do".*

Past recipients of this award include Sara Lu P. Snyder, Frances Parker Rupert, Ginger Leitch, Horton Beirne & *The Covington Virginian*, R. Dean Andrews, The Allegheny Foundation, Sandra Dodd Minter, Nell K. Fleshman, Susan Parker Potter, Westvaco Corporation (WestRock), Allan Tucker, Jean M. Shepard, Dr. Calvin McClinton, Jeffery Stern, Luca & Arlene DiCecco and Arts Council founding members, Lily Albert, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bell, Mr & Mrs. Hubert E. Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Coxe, Mary Frances Mays-Davis, Robert McCaleb, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Miller, Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Persinger, and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stumpp.



Pookie Leitch Remembered with Arts Legacy Award

By *Virginian Review* January 4, 2024

Powell Murray (Pookie) Leitch, Jr was named the recipient of The Alleghany Highlands Arts Council 2023 Arts Legacy Award. The presentation of the posthumous honor recognizing lifetime achievement in perpetuating the performing arts was made Friday evening at the Arts Council's Annual Madrigal Dinner.

Leitch was a Covington native who spent his life making music and bolstering the performing arts in the Alleghany Highlands. After graduation from Covington High School, he prepared himself to join the family business at Loving Funeral Home by attaining licensure from Gupton Jones School of Mortuary Science. He married his high school sweetheart, the late Virginia (Ginger) Ballengee and built a happy home, raising two children, Powell M Leitch, III (Nick) and Elizabeth Marshall Leitch Dreszer (Beth).

"Pookie", as he was known throughout the area, later worked as a production scheduler for the West Virginia Pulp & Paper Company until his untimely death in May 1987 at the age of 51 years old. However, Mr. Leitch filled those years with music and community service.

He served his country as a Master Sergeant in the U. S. Army Reserves. He served his family as a loving father who led by example, exposing his children to many cultures and art forms. He served his church as a member and elder of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church, where he was a steady, reliable, and inspiring leader in its Senior Choir. From his position as Elder, Mr. Leitch was a catalyst and driving force behind the church's purchase and installation of the Holtkamp Pipe Organ that his daughter Beth now plays each Sunday as McAllister's music director and organist.

Possessing an extraordinary tenor voice, Pookie was very active as a soloist, having sung publicly at countless weddings, funerals, and civic events over his lifetime. His son Nick carries that heritage forward as a guest soloist and organist across the Roanoke Valley.

His devotion to the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council helped mold that organization into what it is today. He and his wife Ginger (also an Arts Legacy Award recipient in 2010) played integral roles within its board of directors for five decades.

He is lovingly remembered as the jolly endman with the golden voice in the Covington Woman's Club New Minstrel Show and for his never-ending contributions to the Covington High School Band Boosters. Deeply committed to young people through education, he was serving as chairman of the Covington City School Board at the time of his death. Other organizations include Jackson River Vocational School board, Jeter-Watson PTA, Covington Recreation Board, and our local chapter of the American Heart Association.

Pookie always took time to mentor others. His words of encouragement are still written on the



Presbyterian Women

Circle #3 ~ T.B.A.

Circle #4 ~ Wednesday, February 14 @12:30 pm

SESSION MEETING

February 18, 2024 - immediately following worship

OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready for pickup in the fellowship hall in the front on the table underneath the TV. Please feel free to pick them up before/after worship or during office hours. Thank you.

2023 Giving Statements have been distributed. Those residing out of town will receive their copies by mail. Others can find their statement in the narthex of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact church treasurer, Paul "Buzzy" Riley, in the church office at 540.962.2675. Thank you.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE!

The newest (2024) edition of the McAllister Church directory is entering its final stages of completion. It will include a list of names from our church membership roll as well as addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. This edition will not include photos.

We plan to have copies of the new directory available at the church for pickup in early February. Details for pickup will be forthcoming in upcoming Sunday worship bulletins and the March newsletter.



NOTES FROM PASTOR JIM

* **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4:** We will have a special treat on the first Sunday in February as our young bell ringers play the Call to Worship. Thank you, Brenda Linkenhoker, for organizing and leading this group.

* **VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON:** McAllister will have a Valentine's Luncheon on Sunday, February 4th following worship service. The Sunday School department will provide chicken and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

* **"SOUPER BOWL" Sunday, February 11:** This is an offering taken up to support the COPE food pantry. Please bring a canned good or make a monetary donation.

* **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:** This service will be held February, 14th at 5:30 p.m. in our McAllister Church sanctuary. We will be holding this as a joint service with other area Presbyterian churches. Come get your ashes!

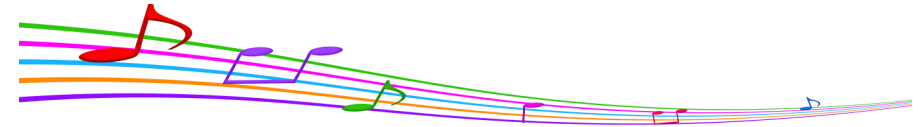
* **LENTEN LUNCHEONS:** McAllister will host the first Lenten luncheon on Wednesday, February 21, at 12:00 noon. This is a ecumenical event held between local Covington churches.

* **BOWLING TRIP:** The youth and children of our church will go bowling on Sunday, February 25th. We will have lunch together in the Fellowship Hall following worship and then head over to the bowling alley.

***** *Thank you to those who helped to take down the Chrismon Tree and Christmas decorations in the church after worship on January 7. I would also like to thank everyone for your cards and well-wishes for my birthday. It doesn't feel like another year has gone by, but you made me feel special.*

AVG. JANUARY 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

63



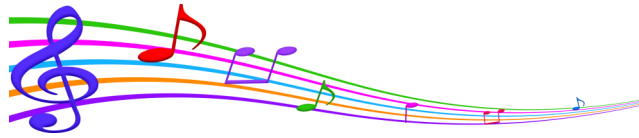
now always grow the Bright Lights variety. It's a gorgeous, green leafy plant, relatively pest resistant and its red, yellow, orange, and white stems look beautiful in the garden and taste great in soups and stir-fries. Next on the list of veggies is my must-have zucchini, Zucchini Rampicante, also known as Zucchini Tromboncino. The beautiful pale green fruits grow in the shape of a French horn and are meaty and delicious, great for grilling, cooking on the stovetop or eating fresh. Plus, they're just cute, even when they get huge. Also—you can loop them over your arm to carry them into the house—a weighty endeavor by late in the season!

Don't even get me started on lettuces! What will it be this year? Flashy Trout's Back Romaine, Green Deer Tongue Looseleaf, maybe some Pomegranate Crunch? And tomatoes?! Oh my! The choices are nearly endless and although I grow several favorites each year, mostly cherry varieties, I also try to experiment with a new tomato or two every growing season.

Even as I write this, I find my mood brightened and I can almost hear the chirps of our little tree frogs and the song of the crickets. And—oh no!—memories of humidity and gnats just intruded into my perfect summer revelry! I think for now, I'll order my seeds, put my summer dreams aside for a month or so, and enjoy the peace and beauty of winter—"the time when the inner things happen."

Stay warm and safe and I hope to see you next Sunday!

Beth



Musical Minute

“In a way, winter is the real spring, the time when the inner things happen, the resurgence of nature.” Edna O’Brien, Irish Novelist.

Shortly on the heels of the last Christmas card received, as eagerly opened as the first one of the season, the post-holiday lull sets in. For some, it may bring relief—a time to get the house back in order, return to a normal schedule, and finally take a deep breath after the frantic pace of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year activities. For some, including me, it brings a tinge, just a tinge, of melancholy. I think it's more connected to the advent of another year, or more truthfully, the passing of the previous year, rather than a post holiday let-down. A bright spot for me in this little puddle of melancholy is always the arrival of the new seed catalogs. It's as though the USPS, sensing my malaise, declares, “It’s time to get these catalogs into the hands of gardeners. Let’s give these people some inspiration!”

The first catalog might arrive the last week of December, but by the early weeks of January they’re arriving in earnest, sometimes two to three each day. There’s Burpee, of course, a staple in the world of seed purveyors for decades, but also the Territorial Seed Company, Select Seeds, and John Scheepers, plus myriad others. Their pages hold the promise of summer joy deep in the heart of winter, and spending a few minutes each day browsing the enticing offerings lightens my mood.

Whether you’re dreaming of flowers or vegetables, you’re sure to find something to suit your tastes, from old standards to intriguing novelties and new introductions for the adventurous gardener. In the next week, I hope to get my orders placed. I’ve got to have my cosmos, as well as zinnias in various shades. Next on the list is nasturtiums in every color I can find, beautiful in the garden as well as tasty in salads and as a garnish on most anything. As far as vegetables go, I always have several cucumbers. Many of the young fruits are devoured in the garden and never even make it to the kitchen. More than ten years ago I fell in love with swiss chard and

For God so lo **V** ed the world,
 That He g **A** ve
 his on **L** y
 Begott **E** n
 So **N**
T hat whosoever
 Believeth **I** n Him
 Should **N** ot perish,
 But have **E** verlasting life.
 John 3:16

llerrah.com

Ash
Wednesday

Remember that you are dust,
 and to dust you shall return.
 Genesis 3 : 19

Lent.

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

Prayer Concerns

Bob Bartley	Ann Donovan	Jean Irvine Family	Jay Scruggs
Ricky Cooke	Mark Dreszer	Debra Bates	Pat Tucker
Butch Curtin	Shana Hatzopoulos	Sue Burns	Karen Wenke
Connie Gadd	Sue Miller Hinton	Clarice Halsey	Connie Wright
Diane Lockhart	Mickey Koch	Marvin Landis	Kevin S. Young Family
Dayton & Penny Stone	Gary Marshall	William McCarter	Japan—earthquake
Brenda & Van Walker	Kolson Morris	Cathy Mundy	
H.L. & Linda Wickham	Lynette Reynolds	Nolan Nicely, III	<i>Non-Believers</i>
Garten Family & friends	Bertie Via	Laura Persinger	<i>Local First Responders</i>
Local business community	Tyreek Yancey	Howard & Pam Poague	<i>Our Nation & Troops</i>
		Jerry Rucker	<i>Government Officials</i>
			<i>Ukraine & Russia</i>
			<i>Middle East</i>

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER- Louise Humphries, David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson
THE SPRINGS - Andy Howell WOODLANDS - Debra Bates
SCOTT HILL - Phyllis Lynn, Sarah Mays
THE GLEBE (Daleville)- Patsy Parker TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island) - Shelby Rock
SHUT-IN—Bob Bartley, Ricky Cooke, Lee & Kinky Fadley, Betty Gibson, B.R. Rupert, Jr., Dolly Whitehead
MILITARY— Aiden Downer, Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead
MISSIONARIES—Tom & Judy Harvey, K. Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee

Constant Need

Midge Akers, Erskine Back, Jerry Ballengee, Rob Bennett, Linda Bogar, Harry & Jean Casey, Luke Crawford, Barry Daniel, Lisa Dickson, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Sam Hale, Don Hampton, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Lori Isaacs, Wendell & Judy Jones, Janet Kidd, Carole Lemon, BeBe Marshall, Jenna McFarland, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Pat Smith, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Shirley Wickline, Gwen Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe

Deaths

<i>“Bobby” Ailstock</i>	<i>Terry M. Kerns</i>	<i>Zora B. Tucker</i>	<i>Verlie W. Wilhelm</i>
<i>Willa R. Balliett</i>	<i>Linda P. Malcolm</i>	<i>Clevie M. Wallace</i>	<i>Dess Baker</i>
<i>Rose Colla Bayly</i>	<i>Ethel R. Aldridge</i>	<i>R. “Bob” G. Ailstock</i>	<i>William C. Bucker, Jr.</i>
<i>Laura G. Booze</i>	<i>Laura G. Booze</i>	<i>Ernest G. Entsminger</i>	<i>Lois M. Fleming</i>
<i>“Sonny” Broughman, Jr.</i>	<i>Allen Chambers</i>	<i>Margaret H. Hart</i>	<i>G. “Tommy” Garten</i>
<i>Velda T. Craft</i>	<i>Carolyn L. Ford</i>	<i>Frankie Howell</i>	<i>Brenda R. Greever</i>
<i>Dorothy K. Dawson</i>	<i>Donna S. Hugus</i>	<i>Virginia F. Robinson</i>	<i>Catherine A. Mines</i>
<i>Dr. Larry Denius</i>	<i>Mazie C. McAllister</i>	<i>Mary Byrd Waddy</i>	<i>Daniel “Boone” Pillow</i>
<i>Susan M. Hawkins</i>	<i>Lois E. Paitsel</i>	<i>Clifford E. Waldren</i>	<i>Wanda C. Plumley</i>
<i>“Benny” Hubbard, Sr.</i>	<i>David W. Schooler</i>	<i>P. “Patty” Cobb Watts</i>	<i>Jimmy “Boog” Powell, Jr.</i>

Memorial Gifts

✠ In memory of Ed Gibson, Jr. by Dwain & Janie Tyree

Young Acolytes Serving Again at McAllister!

Much to the delight of our congregation, McAllister once again has acolytes to celebrate the beginning of our service and mark the close of our worship. Thank you to Pastor Jim and Margaret Moss for investing your time with our children and youth to train them in this meaningful ritual. If there are other children (aged 1st grade & up) or young people who would like to join the acolyte rotation, please contact Pastor Jim or the church office.



Pictured above are Grayson Young and Owen Horton, McAllister’s acolytes for Sunday morning worship, January 21, 2024. Thank you young gentlemen.