

McAllister Messenger

JANUARY 2024

A Word from Your Pastor

~ New Year's Surprises ~

It was early on New Year's Eve. The year was 1987. I was 13 years old. Little did I know, but I would be spending the evening in the Emergency Room.

The accident happened in my bedroom. I was trying to move a stereo speaker that I had placed on the top bunk of my bunk bed. It slipped out of my hands and came crashing down on top of my head.

I knew right away that I was hurt. I had a gash in the top of my head. When I showed it to my mother, she knew right away that I needed stitches. So my parents took me to the Emergency Room. It was not the way any of us had planned to spend our evening. That year, the new year brought a painful surprise.

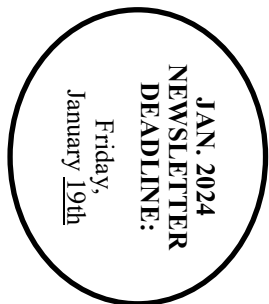
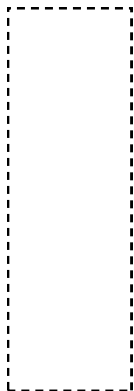
That night reminds me of how a new year can often bring the unexpected. Sometimes, this comes in the form of good news. But other times, the unexpected thing that happens is difficult, like the gash in my head that needed stitches. Sometimes, the new year brings us a painful surprise.

When this happens, it is important to remember that New Year's follows right on the heels of Christmas. Christmas is the day we celebrate the coming of Christ into our world and into our lives. At the Christmas Eve service, when we sing Silent Night and Joy to the World and light the candles, we know that Jesus is with us.

And Jesus stays with us through whatever unexpected difficulties might come in the new year. We know that we can cast our cares on him, and that he will help us through whatever challenges might arise.

Let us hope that none of us have to spend this New Year's Eve in the Emergency Room. But if we do, or if some other difficulty arises, we know that we don't have to face it alone. We know that the Christ child – the light of the world – is with us.

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



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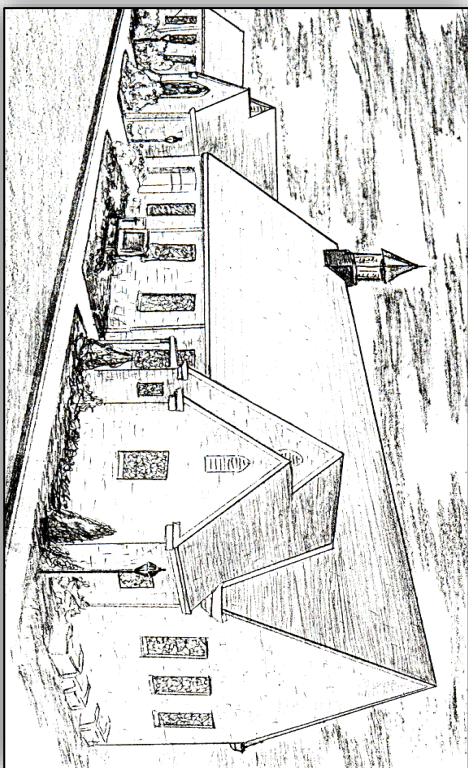
900 N. Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

(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



January Birthdays

- 3 Devin Tucker, Becky Redman
- 4 Byron Faidley
- 7 Brandon Rowan
- 9 Patsy Parker, Debbie Rodgers
Kinley Uzzell
- 10 Andrew Hill
- 13 Danny Hill, Terry Thompson
- 14 Susan Givens
- 16 Tracie Wegman, Kassie Young
Rev. Jim Moss
- 19 Buzzy Riley
- 20 Terri Carper, Leslie Downer
Grady Haynes, Gates Haynes
- 23 Shirley Thompson
- 26 Tamara Hill
Evelyn Scruggs-Amos
- 28 Jean Bartley, Carol Bush
- 31 Gavin Haynes

January Anniversaries

- 2 Carol & James Bush
- 5 Diane & Wayne Barksdale
- 14 Chuck & Jean Bartley
- 17 Amy & Jim Hoover
- 23 Tyson & Tara Uzzell

McAllister Church Youth participate in the local Covington Christmas parade



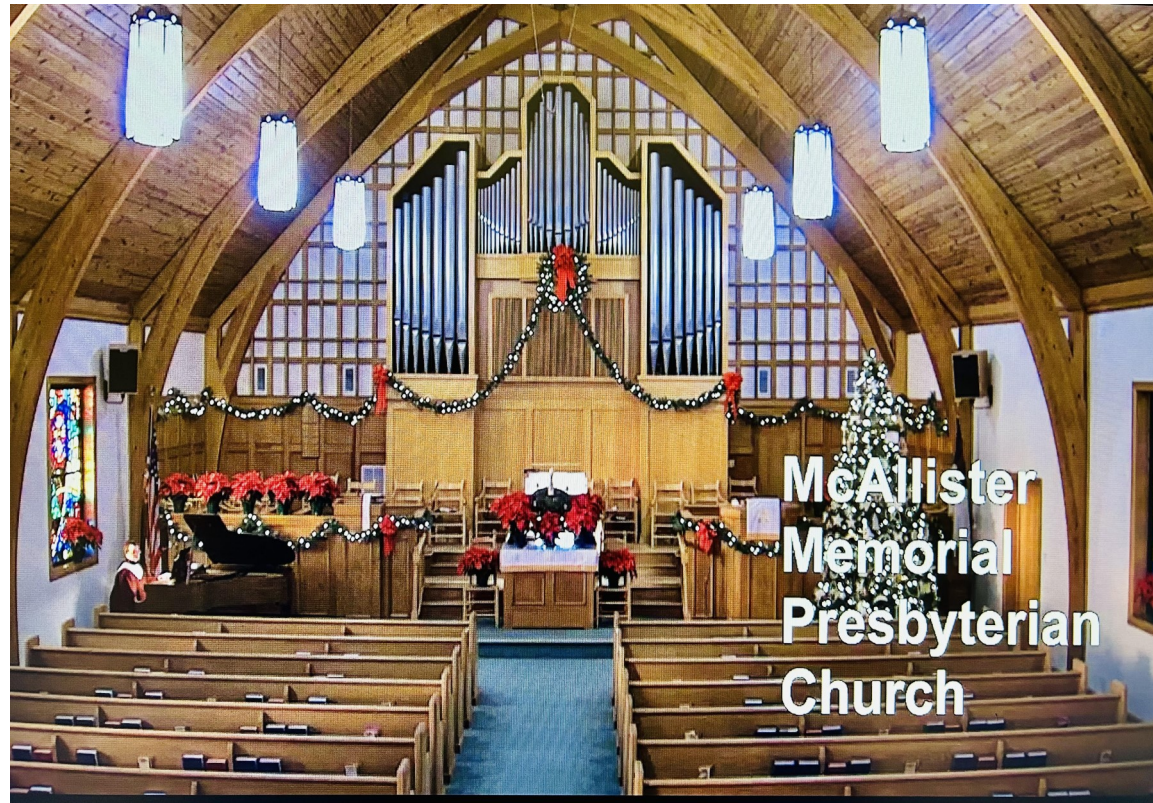
McAllister Church Youth present the Christmas Nativity during 12/17/23 worship



OUT OF
OFFICE

Our church office will be closed
MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST
in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

2023 Poinsettias on display in the sanctuary



McAllister
Memorial
Presbyterian
Church

POINSETTIA POST HOLIDAY CARE

Keep your poinsettias inside and watered during winter.

In Spring, repot your poinsettia if desired and prune significantly to about 8" stems (no leaves remaining).

Place in bright sunlight or even move outside for the summer months. Come September/October, bring inside and place in a sunny window. Your plant should eventually begin to sprout tinges of red before you know it!



Presbyterian Women

Circle #3 ~ Tuesday, January 9 @ 5:30 p.m.

Circle #4 ~ Wednesday, January 10 @ 12:30 p.m.

SESSION MEETING

January 21, 2024 - immediately following worship

OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready for pickup in the fellowship hall on the pew. Please feel free to pick them up before/after worship or during office hours. 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 by the end of the month (January). Details for pickup will be forthcoming in upcoming Sunday worship bulletins and the February newsletter.

NOTE: Beginning after this edition, our McAllister Messenger newsletter postage will be set up and paid for ONLINE instead of in person at the post office for mailing. If you are accidentally left off of the mailing list and do not receive a newsletter by mail as the new online program gets underway, please contact the church office at 540.962.2675 or email at admin@mcallistermempcusa.org.



NOTES FROM PASTOR JIM

* We will be taking down the Chrismon Tree and the Christmas decorations immediately following worship on Sunday, January 7th.

* Sunday, January 7th will also be a special day in the church. We will ordain and install our new class of elders (2026), as well as celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

* The Wednesday Night Bible Study will be taking a break for the month of January. We will return on February 7, when we will begin a study of the book "A Praying Life" by Paul E. Miller.

* Thank you to everyone who made the Advent and Christmas season such a special time at McAllister. It was a beautiful time to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we keep that Christmas Spirit going as we enter the new year!

PHONE TREE — there are some McAllister Church phone tree revisions. If you participate, please update your phone trees to reflect this new contact information:

Carole Lemon — 540.960.9495
Bert Caul — 540.958.1390
Betsy Caul — 540.691.6108

AVG. DECEMBER 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: **90**

Poinsettias in Honor:

Maria Necolau by Callie & Kinley Uzzell

Louise Humphries
by Wayne Humphries

*Grandchildren &
Great Grandchildren*
by Jean & Harry Casey

*Callie Uzzell and Kinley Uzzell;
Margaret Griffith*
by Maria Necolau

Becky & Doris Mottern
by daughters Debbie, Cindy, and Amy

Members of McAllister's Adult Choir
by Andrew & Elizabeth Dreszer

Greg & Lisa Dickson
by Andrew & Elizabeth Dreszer

McAllister Choir
by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan

Pearl Miller by Kenny & Tammy

Beth by Tammy

Monetary Gifts In Memory Of:

*Mr. & Mrs. Walter & Virginia Poague;
Mr. & Mrs. Homer & Ruby Welcher;
Tallie Miller; Annie Miller; Tanya Gates;
Peggy Redmon*
by Lee Ann Poague

*Frank & Ethel Sponaugle; David & Bobbie
Reynolds; Buck & Kay Ray*
by The Sponaugle Family

Christmas Cheer Contributions:

*Charity Hale
Tonya Jones*

Richard Lee Memorial Fund (J. Bray)

*Frank & Susan Sponaugle
Gary Rice*

*Gary & Diane Walker
Danny & Rhoda Hill*

*Richard & Priscilla Downer
Paul Riley*

*Debbie & Danny Rodgers
Harry & Jean Casey*

*Clyde Landis, Jr.
Dorothy Wimer*

*Beth & Andy Dreszer
Cindee & George Stinnett*

*Bob & Leta Bartley
James & Amy Hoover*

*Lee & Lelia Fadley
Amanda Webb Family*

*IN MEMORY OF FAMILY
by Lee Ann Poague*

*IN MEMORY OF GERALD
GIBSON, SR. & STACEY GIBSON
by Betty Gibson & Family*

*IN MEMORY OF OLEN &
GLADYS BENNETT
by Camilla & Johnsey Cabaniss*



FLOWERS & GIFTS

Given in Memory and Honor 2023



Poinsettias in Memory:

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde H. Landis, Sr.
by Clyde H. Landis, Jr.

*Jack, Helen, Jesse, Brian, Richard, Jonathan,
Wallace O'Conner; Bobby Wilhelm;
Trucky Lemon; Ashleigh Hepler*
by Their Family

Virgil & Juanita Bartley; Jack & Ethel Downer
by Richard & Priscilla Downer

Mr. & Mrs. A.A. Hayslett, Sr.
by The Hayslett Family

Teresa Powell by June & Ricky Cooke

Family Members by Marshall & Donna Fox

Berkley Key; Loressa & Gil Poague by Pam Key

Bonnie Rice by Gary Rice & Family

*Mr. & Mrs. Powell M. Leitch, Jr. (Pookie and
Ginger); Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Dreszer
(Richard and Anna)*
by Andrew & Elizabeth Dreszer

Earl "Trucky" Lemon by Carole Lemon—wife

Teresa by Your Family—We miss you!

*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Elizabeth &
Pete Necolau; Nancy & Carl Nicely*
by Maria P. Necolau

Theo & Ruby Craft; Roscoe Craft; Curtis Craft
by Donna, Jeremiah, Lauren & Cheston Walker

Libby and Lucas Riley
by Paul Riley, Kylene Smith, Katie Riley, Brielle
Smith, Kenzie Cline, Cohen Long

Dr. Matthew H. Menefee, Jr.—my brother
by Pearl Miller & Family

Harry Langburn "Lang" Gilbert
by Your Family

*Bill & Janet S. Gurd;
Matthew W. Rodgers*
by Debbie & Danny Rodgers

Donald & Joyce Scruggs; Hilda Duncan
by Kenny & Tammy Scruggs-Duncan

Susan by Tammy

Burdette & Frances Rupert
by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan

Pookie & Ginger Leitch
by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan

*Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Bartley; Bea Jennings;
Dick Ervin*
by Bob & Leta Bartley

Jeff Hicks
by His Family

Helen, Rickard, and Lisa Cooke by Diane Hicks

Woodrow "Buddy" Young
by Margie, Mike & Brigitte, Kevin, Renee',
Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Harvey Stull & Ruby Stull; Larry S. Stull
by Paula Stull

Ricky Lee, Jr. by The Bray Family

Winifred & Mildred Crawford; Ruth Crawford
by Darrell, Donna, and Emmy Baker

Richard & Carol Ayers; Henry & Zula Tingler
by Harry, Gina, Kelley, and Adam Tingler

Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Walker, Sr.;
Mr. & Mrs. Theo Craft
by Charlie, Jeremiah, Lauren & Cheston Walker

Helen & Dempsey Laudermilk
by Cathy Rowan; Aiden, Silas, and Payson Riley

Helen Lemon Laudermilk & Dempsey Laudermilk;
Carol A. Lemon Ayers & Richard Ayers
by William Lemon



Musical Minute

My dear friend Nell once told me that her very favorite part of any gift was the box in which it came. Until the ribbon, wrap, and boxtop were removed, she explained, the box had the potential to hold anything, be it a pair of warm gloves, tickets to a special vacation or event, a book that could transport the giftee to places only dreamed of, or completely unheard of, or even a sentimental gift from a family member or dear friend, perhaps something infinitely more valuable and meaningful than the price paid for it. An unopened box holds promise—of things not yet known or seen, of something not yet experienced, of something that can possibly delight, educate, or even improve us—rather like the blank slate of a new year.

I'm writing this on the 26th of December 2023, seated by our Christmas tree, listening to seasonal music and the rain lightly falling outside the window. It is an afternoon of perfect, gray, calm following the busy weeks leading up to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The only thing to improve it would be a light snowfall, but this year I'm perfectly happy to see the rain knowing it will help the low water tables in the Alleghany Highlands and enhance the beauty of spring in a few short months. After the winter solstice last week, the days are already lengthening, ever so slightly, but still noticeably. Spring will arrive before we know it, and summer will follow hot on its heels, literally, not too long thereafter.

I'll bet that many of us are already thinking ahead, planning out our year, and admittedly, we have to. There are activities and events to schedule, and tasks to complete. But in my own experience, planning too far ahead causes me to overlook the present. Planning weeks and sometimes even months ahead makes those same weeks and months fly by, almost unnoticed, as I anticipate what comes next. Sitting here this afternoon, I know that I have only a little over 365 days before 2025 arrives and I'm another year older. Over the last weeks, I've thought of what I had hoped to accomplish this past year. There were many necessary things that I did get done, but there were other things that I thought I had prioritized at the start of the year that weren't even touched—favorite hobbies that I'd hoped to get back to, letters to distant friends and family that needed to be written, and people that I wanted and needed to see, but didn't. I'm thrilled to be here to welcome 2024, but this year I'm going to try to take the lid off of this "box" of potential earlier. I hope to dig into its bottomless contents a little deeper and a little more purposefully so that all of its marvelous possibilities don't just slip away. I'll let you know the results this time next year . . . which, as you know all too well, is just around the corner! Best wishes for a blessed New Year!

~Beth

Prayer Concerns

Ashley Anderson	Charlie Barton	Leta Bartley	Sue Burns
Teresa Downer	Carol Bush	Debra Bates	Steve Craft
Mark Dreszer	Pat & Linda Caldwell	Mike Hayner	Taylor Persinger
Sonya Fornwalt	Mrs. Seth Caldwell	Joe Martin	Howard Poague
Bobby & Anita Rice	Sandra Clemmons	Meredith Minter	Remington Propps
Riley Rothwell	Jim Dobbs	Frenchie Parris	Kaitlyn Potter Law
Tanner & Catherine	Jay Frame	Melvin Persinger	& newborn, Teagan
Seay and newborn	Helen Harris	David Sponaugle	<i>Non-Believers</i>
Jill, Mackenzie Shifflett	Robert McCoy	Nancy Tyree	<i>Local First Responders</i>
Lisa Sponaugle	Stevie Rice	Collin Williams	<i>Our Nation & Troops</i>
Brenda Wilcher	Dayton Stone	Mike Young Family	<i>Government Officials</i>
Family of Josephine	Border Crossing crisis	Helmintoller Family	<i>Ukraine & Russia</i>
& Nicole Nicely	TN tornado victims		<i>Middle East</i>
			<i>Citizens of Gaza</i>

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER- Kara Asboth, Mary Sue Fox, Aldene Fry, Louise Humphries, David Lynn, Sarah Mays, Bonnie Patterson
THE SPRINGS - Andy Howell, Pete & Sue Gibson
WOODLANDS - Gary Skidmore, Marilyn Lambert, Suzanne Green **SCOTT HILL** - Phyllis Lynn
THE GLEBE (Daleville) - Patsy Parker **TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island)** - Shelby Rock
AT HOME—Bob Bartley, Ricky Cooke, Lee/Kinky Fadley, Betty Gibson, B.R. Rupert, Jr., Dolly Whitehead
MILITARY— Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead, Aiden Downer
MISSIONARIES—Tom & Judy Harvey, K. Esslinger/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, 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>Phyllis Brewster</i>	<i>Michael Kimberlin</i>	<i>Teresa Markham</i>	<i>Nicole Nicely</i>
<i>Daniel M. Campbell, Sr.</i>	<i>James K. Landis</i>	<i>Kathy G. McCauley</i>	<i>Kayla Sowers</i>
<i>Judy L.H. Drewry</i>	<i>Robert P. Lindsay</i>	<i>Willie McKnight, Jr.</i>	<i>Willia R. Balliett</i>
<i>Mary Ann R. Laughlin</i>	<i>Betty T. Price</i>	<i>Betty W. Myles</i>	<i>Zernie N. Campbell</i>
<i>Becky S. Liptrap</i>	<i>Blake J. Rose</i>	<i>Josephine R. Nicely</i>	<i>Velda Tucker Craft</i>
<i>Barbara D. Park</i>	<i>Lois K. Unroe</i>	<i>Deanna Lee Prewitt</i>	<i>Velma J.B. Craft</i>
<i>G.M. "Mike" Sams</i>	<i>Helen B. Warren</i>	<i>Verna M. Ross</i>	<i>Shane E. Hatcher</i>
<i>Gene Snyder, Sr.</i>	<i>Carol F. West</i>	<i>Peter Spencer</i>	<i>Lance E. Lyons</i>
<i>"Sally" Knighton Tingler</i>	<i>Miki Ballengee</i>	<i>Afton N. Whitehead</i>	<i>Samuel "Gene" Mason</i>
<i>Lula Mae W. Bowen</i>	<i>Barbara Burnside</i>	<i>Frederick Armentrout</i>	<i>Billy "Gorp" Taylor</i>
<i>Roy H. Carter, Jr.</i>	<i>"Willie" Cochran, Jr.</i>	<i>Ronald "Rink" Baker</i>	<i>Nancy H. Tinsley</i>
<i>Maurice Davenport</i>	<i>Warren Harris</i>	<i>Ronnie Dowd</i>	<i>Carrie P. Vaughn</i>
<i>Teresa N. Frye</i>	<i>Susan M. Hawkins</i>	<i>Timmy W. Frame</i>	<i>Verlie W. Wilhelm</i>
<i>Clyde Helmintoller</i>	<i>Sadie M. Johnson</i>	<i>Josephine Nicely</i>	<i>Nancy Brungart Walker</i>

McAllister Church extends sympathy and prayer to our beloved music director, Beth Dreszer, and her family on the loss of her dear aunt, Miki Ballengee.

Words of Appreciation and Gifting

☆ The League of Older Americans (L.O.A.) thanks our church volunteers delivering Meals-On-Wheels for 2023—Ed Gibson V, Harry Casey, Chuck & Jean Bartley, Bob & Leta Bartley (plus grandson), Marshall & Donna Fox, Jim & Marlene Faidley, Bucky & Doris Mottern and their daughter, Debbie Bennett. This is a very important program to those who are shut-ins.

God Bless You!

☆ THANK YOU to Marlene Faidley who kindly managed our honorary/ memorial poinsettias again this year (and in many years past). Your hard work ordering, watering, and placement paid off and is sincerely appreciated as the sanctuary looked so festive for our Christmas Eve services.

☆ Dear McAllister Church—Thank you so much for providing a meal for our family. It was wonderful to be able to have one less meal to worry about during this difficult time. It was extremely generous and very much appreciated. We are grateful to have friends like you! Also, thanks for all the cards, calls, and prayers. They meant so much. ~ The Family of Elwood Cadd ~
 (Donna, Steve, and Meg Craft; Sandra & Curt Clemmons)

☆ Gift by Circle 3 in honor of Marlene Faidley for all of her work as moderator of Circle 3 in 2023.

Correspondence

I hope everyone had a good year. My past year has been enjoyable. There are always a lot of interesting and fun activities where I live. We have entertainers that come in, visiting farm animals, arts, crafts, teas, and various other activities. Never a dull moment for sure. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

~ Shelby Rock (Rhode Island)

******Patsy Parker** has moved to the assisted living section at the Glebe. Her new address is:
Patsy Parker—250 Elliston Circle, Apt. 2216
Daleville, VA 24083