

McAllister Messenger

FEBRUARY 2025

A Word From Your Pastor

~ Spring Is Coming ~

January was a rough month for weather. We had several inches of snow early in the month, followed by a string of bitterly cold days. The snow froze into ice, and it seemed like it would never go away. In fact, as I write this, there is still plenty of snow hanging around.

But warmer temperatures have arrived, and the snow is beginning to melt. This relative “heat wave” has brought us hope – hope that spring is on the way. And even though we still have several weeks to two months of winter to go, we know that spring is coming.

This hope for spring is like the hope we receive from our faith in God. When we are going through our roughest times – through illnesses or injuries, through periods of grieving for a lost loved one, or through any sort of difficulty we might face – we have faith that better days are on the way. We have faith that God will see us through the difficulty to a warmer time.

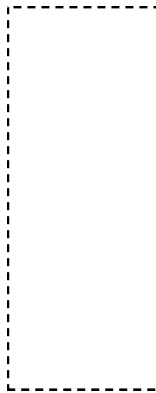
During winter, nature provides us with some signs of hope for spring. There are the afternoons when a little warmth breaks through and the temperatures rise into the 50’s; there is the fact that the days are getting longer; and there is what is known as the “reasonable robin” – a bird that appears in late winter to let us know that warmer days are near.

In a similar way, God provides us with signs that our difficult times will not last forever. Perhaps it is a reassuring card from a friend; or a smile and a kind word from a stranger; or a meaningful hymn sung during worship. In fact, God calls on us to provide those signs for one another. We are called to love one another, and it through this love that God reaches us and reminds that spring is indeed on its way.

So take heart! Warmer days are on the way. Let us give thanks to God for the promise of spring.



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



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Presbyterian Church**
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online giving link:



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1—Jerry Taylor, Sr. | 17—Gerald Gibson, Jr. |
| 2—Payson Riley | 20—Bobby Rice |
| 3—Kelley Tingler | Aaron Ratliff |
| 4—Paul Linkenhoker | Chad Thompson |
| 6—Julia Bryant | 21—Tonya Jones |
| Betty Gibson | 22—Dorothy Thompson |
| Chris Johnson | 23—Craig Poague |
| 8—Summit Caul | Brittany Young-Baker |
| 9—Amanda Webb | 24—Zeke Baker & Luke Baker |
| 10—Tammy Scruggs-Duncan | 27—Sandy Persinger |
| Mason Hale | |
| 13—Adam Tingler | ALSO, <i>sincerest apologies</i> to Meghan Craft |
| Cody Long | who was left off of the DECEMBER |
| 16—B.R. Rupert, Jr. | newsletter birthday list so a special |
| | HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO YOU!! |

ALSO, *sincerest apologies* to Meghan Craft who was left off of the DECEMBER newsletter birthday list so a special **HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!**

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

Finding God in our Community



Look at what "2 Cents" can do!

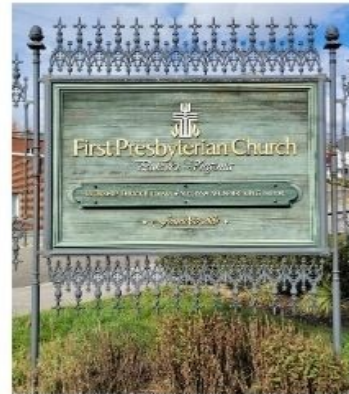


PULASKI DAILY BREAD

Endorsed by First Presbyterian Church, in Pulaski, VA, **Pulaski Daily Bread** aims to reduce food insecurity within the community by providing a free lunch to any and all who might need, no questions asked. Operating out of the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian,

the program began with two meals served on its first day nearly 37 years ago, but now averages 120 meals a day and nearly 2000 per month. During a tour of the facility and the opportunity to share a meal, Director Michael Boothe (pictured above) shared that

...God is at work here..."



Aren't you glad that we can find encouragement, hope and possibilities all around us? We can find God in the Pulaski Daily Bread of Pulaski, VA.



YET, not only here, but also where you are! Remember: Give a little to Help a lot...!

vernier@peakspresbytery.org



his return to his hometown of Pulaski from North Carolina has included the rewarding experience of working with the program. He explained that he has built relationships with the guests, the limited staff and numerous volunteers. "It's amazing how God will lead you..." AMEN to that!

Finding God in our Community



Look at what "2 Cents" can do!



GILES COUNTY CHRISTIAN SERVICE MISSION

Endorsed by Pearisburg Presbyterian Church, **The Christian Service Mission** provides groceries through its "self-serve" food pantry to address food insecurity for some families of the Giles County community, rent and utility assistance as well as clothing vouchers to be used in its retail

store. Leisa Palmer, the director of the Mission, explained that the needs of the community became so great that an expansion of the facility became necessary. After raising funds to acquire a neighboring space, a portion of wall was knocked down to create an expanded food pantry.

...God is at work here...!



Aren't you glad that we can find encouragement, hope and possibilities all around us? We can find God in the Giles County Christian Service Mission of Pearisburg, VA.



YET, not only here, but also where you are! Remember: Give a little to Help a lot...!

vermie@peakspresbytery.org



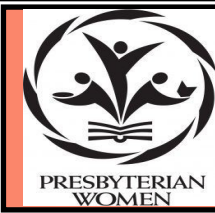
A tour through the facility revealed committed volunteers working to stock shelves in the pantry, organizing workspaces to receive clothing donations, and retail associates assisting patrons in the store (proceeds help fund the voucher program other assistance programs).

Church ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEXT SESSION MEETING:

Sunday, Feb. 16
immediately after worship



Circle 3 — Tuesday, February 11, 5:30 p.m.

Circle 4 — Wednesday, February 12, 12:30 p.m.

UPDATED ADDRESSES:

B.R. Rupert, Jr.
Carrington Commons
270 Commons Pkwy.
Daleville, VA 24083

Carole Lemon
c/o Michael Hepler
1061 12th Ave., NW
Hickory, NC 28601

Luke Crawford
Central Mail Distribution Center
3521 Woods Way
State Farm, VA 23160-0004



***The McAllister Messenger is a monthly publication. Deadline for submissions is the second Friday of each month. You can also view this newsletter online at www.mcallistermempcusa.org. If you prefer a full color copy of this publication BY EMAIL, need to inform us of a change in contact information, OR object to the use of your photo/your children's photo being used, please call the church office or email us (see back cover). We sincerely regret any error or omission that may occur in this publication. Contact our office at 540-962-2675 with any revisions. Leave a message if necessary as voicemail is checked regularly.

Prayer Concerns

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Randy Anderson | Jean Bartley | Emily Amick | Rosa Lee Bartley |
| Allen Broughman | Mary Ann Beirne | Chuck Bartley | Carol Bush |
| Robert Campbell | Cassie Bowles | Venetta Broyles | Ricky Cooke |
| Barbara Jenkins | Teresa Carter | Saige Cahoon | Andy Dreszer |
| Ruth Lane | Penny Cooke | Sandra Clemmons | Cindy Fox |
| Joe Martin | Virginia Cronk | Jennifer Clifton | Kyle Keyser |
| Dreama Nichols | Debbie Curtis | Christie Coffman | Nick Leitch |
| Ray Parish | Dicky & Marion Fauver | Butch & Norma Curtin | Linda Reysn |
| Burton Poague | Glen Hicklin | Aiden Downer | Buzzy Riley |
| Bill Wilson | Bob Kagarise | Priscilla Downer | Pat Smith |
| Waldron Family | Pete & Barbara Leitch | Blair Johnson | Sharon Tice |
| Incoming President | Audrey Nicely | Carole Lemon | Garrett Via |
| Outgoing President | Jeffrey Snead | Greg & Carol Martin | Young Family |
| California residents | McKinley Starnes | Sandy Price | Rob Bennett Family |
| | Susan Terrell | | |

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Phyllis Lynn, Bonnie Patterson, Rosa Lee Bartley (Rm. 500)
SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays
THE WOODLANDS: Sandy Price
THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell
THE GLEBE (Daleville): Patsy Parker
CARRINGTON PLACE: B.R. Rupert, Jr.
BRIDGEWATER HOME: Jean Broughman
TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island): Shelby Rock
SHUT-IN: Bob & Leta Bartley, Ricky Cooke, Betty Gibson, Dolly Whitehead
MILITARY: Olivia Bryant, Aiden Downer, Chris Whitehead
MISSIONARIES—Tom & Judy Harvey, Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung Lee



Constant Need

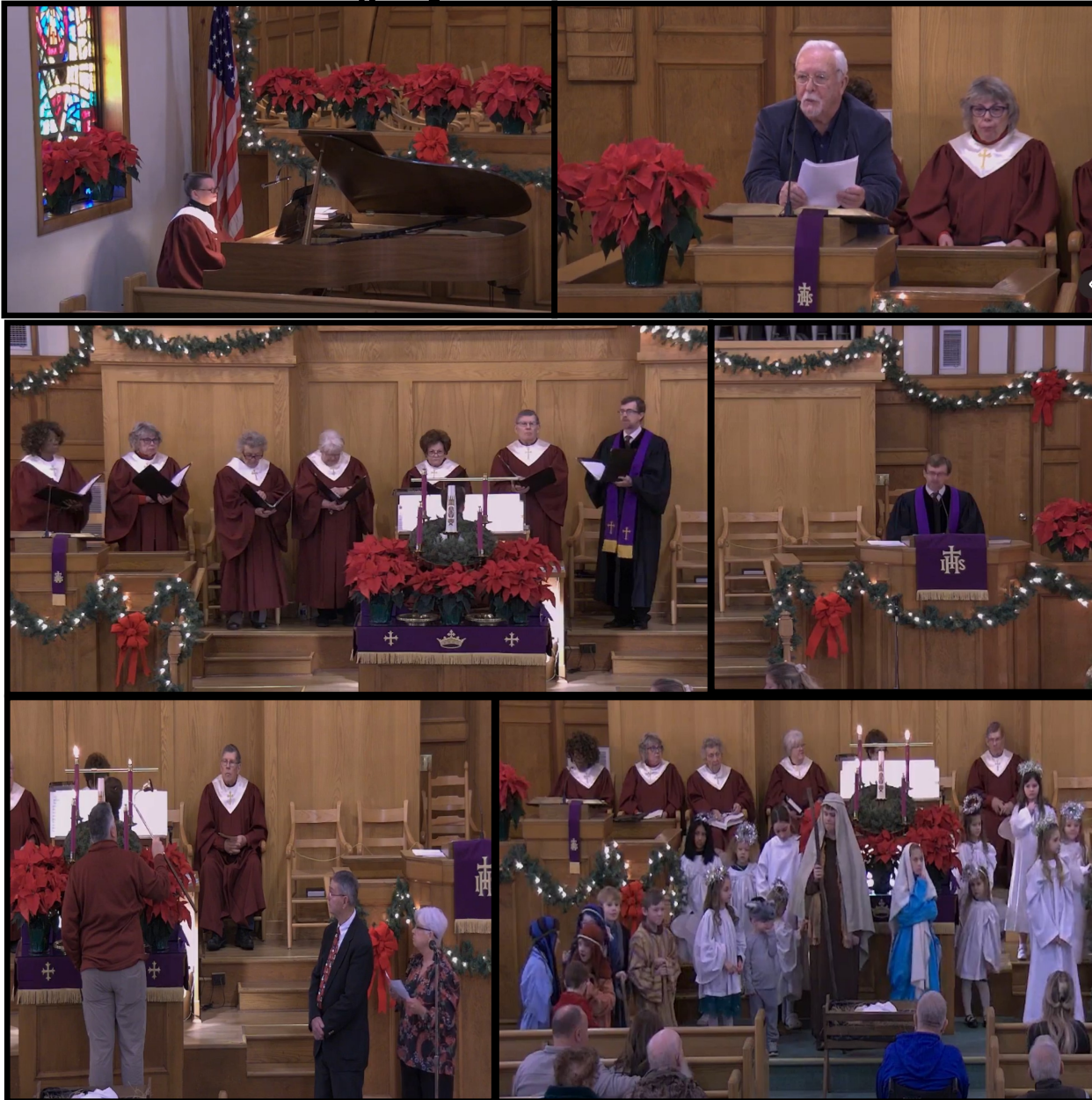
Midge Akers, Ben Baker & family/friends, Jerry Ballengee, Rob Bennett, Jimmy Brown, Linda Caldwell, Harry & Jean Casey, Joyce Clark, Luke Crawford, Barry Daniel, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Renee Young Gann, Bonnie Grimes, Don Hampton, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Nick Leitch, Carole Lemon, Bebe Marshall, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Pat Smith, Angie Sponaule, EthanThompson, Buddy Vass, Greg Vess, Stephanie Wells, Shirley Wickline, Gwen Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe, **Non-believers, First Responders, Our Nation, Our Troops & Government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East**

First Sunday of Christmas—December 29th



Pictured above: Our beautifully adorned sanctuary all festive and warm for our Christmas season and a close-up of our lovely Chrismon tree; worshippers sing along with our adult choir lead by the talented Elizabeth Dreszer on organ; Patty Anderson fills-in for Rev. Jim Moss this particular Sunday and brings us her message; Gary Rice, Bobby Rice, Priscilla Downer, and Gary Walker perform collection duties; Patty Anderson closes our worship service with her benediction and exits the sanctuary.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22nd



Pictured above: Music Director, Elizabeth Dreszer, provides a prelude for the congregation. Marshall Fox welcomes everyone to worship and makes the announcements. McAllister Church's adult choir (Pearl Miller, Susan Sponaugle, Linda Wickham, Cathy Rowan, Brenda Walker, Joe Martin, and Reverend Jim Moss) sings the anthem. Reverend Moss speaks from the pulpit. Rick Downer lights the fourth Advent candle alongside his parents, Richard and Priscilla Downer, who also participated. The children perform the Nativity Tableaux.

Deaths

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Carolyn H. Allen</i> | <i>Hilda B. Bates</i> | <i>W. "Sonny" Craft, Jr.</i> | <i>R. "Rob" Bennett, II</i> |
| <i>A. "Bari" Ballou</i> | <i>Twyla F.W. Bolden</i> | <i>William H. Harlow</i> | <i>Phyllis Bumgarner</i> |
| <i>Katie L. Burnette</i> | <i>Mildred Humphries</i> | <i>H. "Ozzie" Hostetter</i> | <i>Russell W. Caldwell</i> |
| <i>Jake Callahan</i> | <i>Harry F. Hyler</i> | <i>Joseph Jerman, Jr.</i> | <i>Mayor L.E. Haynes</i> |
| <i>Stephen L. Croy</i> | <i>David P. Kinkead</i> | <i>Lois C. Kemper</i> | <i>Tony C. Nicely</i> |
| <i>Dennis W. Dew</i> | <i>Clarence Lavender</i> | <i>Cherly Biggs Posey</i> | <i>Verlan A. Simmons</i> |
| <i>Retha P. Freeland</i> | <i>Cleopatra B. Lee</i> | <i>Margaret L. Reynolds</i> | <i>Shirley S. Sites</i> |
| <i>Virginia W. Garman</i> | <i>N. "Tommy" May, Jr.</i> | <i>Bobby D. Rogers</i> | <i>Jean Ann Smith</i> |
| <i>"Willie" Graham, Sr.</i> | <i>S.A. "Pete" Nicely</i> | <i>V. "Vickie" Simmons</i> | <i>Derwin Wilhelm</i> |
| <i>M. "Mitzi" Hammond</i> | <i>Patricia K.B. Parker</i> | <i>Lelia "Louise" Wolfe</i> | |

Memorial Gifts

✝ In memory of Olen & Gladys Bennett
by Kevin & Rhonda Bennett

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and our sincerest condolences to:

- ✝ Jean Casey, member, on the loss of her sister, Phyllis Bumgarner
- ✝ Pearl Miller, member, on the loss of her cousin, Twyla Bolden.
- ✝ Anyone having recently experienced a loss.

Notes From Pastor Jim



- ◆ *I would like to give Patty Anderson my appreciation for filling in for me while I was out on Sunday, December 29 and January 26. I know the McAllister Church congregation thanks you as well for bringing them your message.*
 - ◆ *We will be having our Valentine's Luncheon immediately following worship on Sunday, February 9. Chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share.*
 - ◆ *The children and youth will be having a special activity on Sunday, February 23 following worship. It will either be bowling or a movie. Please stay tuned for more information.*
 - ◆ *Instead of making up the cancelled January Session meeting, we will simply meet again at our regularly scheduled date on February 16.*
- ◆ *The Ordination and Installation of Elders, which has been postponed a couple of times, will finally take place on Sunday, February 2. Please join us as we welcome the class of 2027!*
 - ◆ *On Sunday, February 2, we will receive Teresa Carter into church membership. Please give Teresa a big McAllister welcome!*

**AVERAGE JANUARY '25 SUNDAY
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:**

49

CONGRATULATIONS TO members:

**** Benjamin Moss ****

**** Samuel Moss ****

**** Samuel Poague ****

**on making the Fall 2024 Dean's List at
Bridgewater College! Way to go!!!!**

Poinsettia Care Throughout the Year

If you have poinsettias leftover from the Christmas holiday season, you may wish to preserve them until next season. If so, here are some tips of how to successfully maintain your poinsettia plant:

JANUARY—MARCH

Water sparingly as the plant goes into dormancy. One half cup of water every two weeks will do. They still need a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight each day. Leaves and colorful bracts will begin to fall off during this time.

APRIL—MAY

Prune poinsettia by half to encourage new growth, cutting each stem just above a leaf node. Water when soil is dry. Fertilize when new growth emerges using slow release or water soluble fertilizer.

JUNE—Time to transplant!

Plant in ground in a bright location with full sun to partial shade. Or, move to a pot one size than it is in using a loose, slightly acidic soil that drains well. Water when top few inches of soil is dry. Fertilize every two weeks with slow release or water soluble fertilizer.

JULY—OCTOBER

Pinch back tips of new growth to create a bushier plant leaving at least four leaves per stem for photo synthesis. Poinsettias are a short day plant. Beginning near the fall equinox—September 21—poinsettias will need 12-15 hours of complete darkness to produce their colorful bracts. If indoors place in a dark closet. If outdoors, cover with a cardboard box if there is any artificial light.

In **November** the top bracts will start to color up.

By **December** they should be colorful again and ready for the season!



Andy Drzeszer: The Man Behind McAllister's Livestream Success

McAllister's video ministry profoundly impacts many lives. Our Sunday services broadcasting on Facebook Live can be a lifeline for those unable to attend church in person, whether due to illness, distance, or other limitations. This digital outreach extends God's word and the weekly message to a wider audience, including those outside our congregation.

The technical expertise required for this high-quality production can easily go unnoticed.

Every Sunday, a sophisticated operation akin to a professional TV studio unfolds in our balcony, thanks to the dedicated leadership of Andy Drzeszer.

Andy's heartfelt commitment is evident in his tireless efforts: mastering intricate technical skills, navigating complex regulations, and consistently refining our broadcast with innovative enhancements each week. His dedication has significantly expanded our reach and enriched the spiritual lives of viewers. Andy will be stepping away from the console for a time as he focuses on repairing some physical maladies. We want to express our deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication and the countless hours he has selflessly devoted to our video ministry. Andy's technical expertise and tireless efforts have been instrumental in bringing God's word to a broader audience. We wish him a swift and full recovery and pray The Lord's blessings upon him.



Sincere Appreciation and Thanks

McAllister Church Family—Thank you all for your comfort and support in person, through phone calls, and cards after the loss of my father. Your kindness and condolences meant so much to me and my family.

This is truly a caring church! Pastor Jim Moss

McAllister Church,

We wish to thank you for the meat & cheese tray and rolls you provided our family during the sudden loss of our Dad, Robert Crawford. Adam, Andrew, Luke and families

Dear McAllister Church Family,

Thank you for your gift to OAPC in memory of Bob, Jim's dad. He served in ministry for over 40 years and we all miss him. My best to you and yours in the new year. Mary Moss

Dear Church Family,

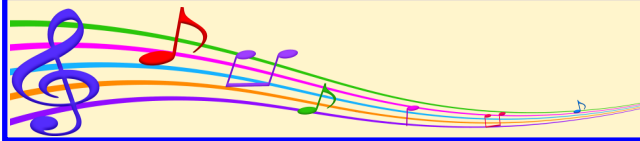
Thank you so much for the blankets you gave us for Christmas. They are definitely being used! We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Happy New Year to all! Bucky & Doris Mottern

Dear McAllister Church Family,

We want to thank you for remembering us at Christmas with the cozy throw blankets. We can feel your loving arms around us settled in our chairs wrapped in them. May God continue to bless our McAllister Family in the New Year 2025. Love, The Hills—Danny & Rhoda

Dear Church Family,

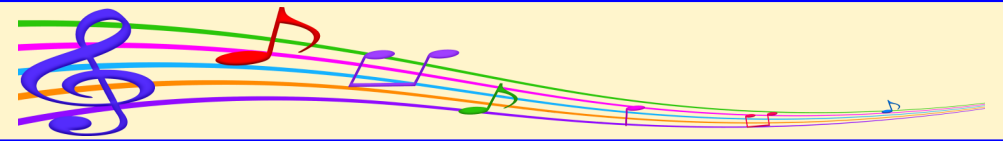
Ricky and I so appreciate your calls, messages, cards, visits, and especially your prayers. Special thanks to Reverend Jim for his concerns and visits. To Bert—thank you for making sure Ricky made it to church to watch the children's Christmas program. We also received a nice, warm blanket for Ricky from the church which was so thoughtful. Our circle also gave him a gift card—thank you so much! We have a wonderful church family. Love, June & Ricky



Musical Minute

It's only mid-January but the television ads are already aggressively hinting about the way to win your true love's heart. The old standards are there—flowers, jewelry, perfume, and chocolates. But when did a new car become a little token of affection? "I love you, my darling. And in case you don't believe me, here's a new Lexus to prove it." "Honestly, I hadn't given it much thought until just now, but since you just gifted me a new Lexus, I think I love you, too," the one being wooed responds. I'd like to think I'm not old enough to be a curmudgeon yet, but I do often find myself looking back with fondness at what I remember to be "simpler times." I don't know if children still exchange valentines in grade school, but I remember well going to the store in the week leading up to the big day and choosing a flat, cellophane-wrapped box or two, depending on class size, of small cards and accompanying envelopes. Every single child in the class received a valentine, even, at mom's insistence, the little boy who had cooties or the little girl who had been rather nasty to me just the week before. It was an egalitarian occasion celebrated with cupcakes and Kool-Aid, ending with a stack of colorful little cards with sweet sentiments to take home and look at later. Mom was a relentless "morning person" and somehow managed to accomplish more before 7 AM than many people can manage in an entire day. On Valentine's day that meant the evening's dessert was already baked and iced and sitting on a pretty platter on the dining room table before we came down to breakfast in the morning. Long before I knew the mystery behind layer cakes, I marveled at the luscious looking heart-shaped cake, usually chocolate with chocolate icing, with a cupid's arrow (made from folded aluminum foil) magically protruding from either side of the cake. For years I wondered how she managed to stick that arrow through the cake! Dad always had the honor of cutting the first piece of cake following dinner, and I felt profoundly grownup the year I finally realized that while, yes, the cake was for the whole family, mom's primary impetus for getting up well before dawn to bake that cake was the love she had for her high school sweetheart.

While the memory of that cake lives on in my heart, I also have a more concrete Valentine's day treasure from my college years. I found it tucked over some pipes in the basement while going through mom and dad's house on Lexington Avenue after mom passed in 2011. It now lives at our house and I bring it upstairs for a few days every February. It's a Valentine's heart, about 2 by 2 1/2 feet, crafted by dad of bleached board paper (of course). He affixed it to the big mirror that hung in the front hallway before leaving for work one February Friday morning in 1987. On it, in bright red marker, he declared his Valentine's day love for everyone who would be in the house that weekend, and when mom brought my friend Alison and I home from college that afternoon, the Valentine was the first thing that greeted us when we walked in the door. Even though he spelled her name a little differently than it was actually spelled, Alison was so touched to be included. Nick and I were there, Nick's soon to be fiancé, Cathy, my already betrothed, Andy, mom, our irascible terrier mix, Fiddlestix, and Nick's elegant white German Shepherd (with shall we say a "sensitive," yet lovely disposition), Elsa.



Dad wrote the date on that big 'ole heart that hung on the mirror that weekend and it stuns me now to think that we had dad for not even three whole months longer after he crafted that little piece of love and joy for all of us. Thirty-eight years later, the tape on the back of the heart is yellowed and brittle, and the sign is a little tired, but on the whole none the worse for the wear and the years that have passed. The love and thoughtfulness behind his gesture still bring tears to my eyes and warm my heart, like a direct communication from papa from beyond space and the decades. By the time you receive this newsletter, winter will be on its way out. Sure—we may have a few snowy, even icy setbacks, but spring is on the way along with the exuberant, colorful joy it brings. Whether you're a fan of St. Valentine's Day or not so much, maybe find a way to enjoy the sentiment of this semi-holiday. Snuggle up with your pets, call a friend, reshare an old family story with a sibling or a cousin, or even give your sweetheart a peck on the cheek. Winter is ending and the thaw is coming. It's time to share some love!

Beth

