

McAllister Messenger

MARCH 2025

A Word From Your Pastor

~ A Journey of Love ~

(The following exercises were created by James C. Pippin. Thank you to Pat Martin for bringing them to me.)

As a spiritual adventure during Lent, I suggest you take a special six-week trip. You won't need extra clothes, there won't be much travel involved, nor will you have to spend a lot of money. The preparation will be mostly in your spirit, and pens, paper and Bible are recommended aids.

FIRST WEEK: The Hand of Love—Write a letter a day to a friend, someone not related to you, near or faraway. Tell them how much you appreciate them.

SECOND WEEK: The Voice of Love—Telephone two or three people each day for a short chat, just to say what they mean to you or to say “Thank you” or “I’m sorry.” Call people you have intended to phone but somehow never have.

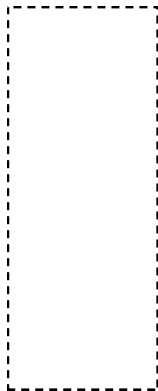
THIRD WEEK: The Deed of Love—Take something you have made or bought to two or three friends who mean a lot to you, but for whom you rarely express your love – a pie, plant, apron, a small remembrance that has your love as a wrapping.

FOURTH WEEK: The Heart of Love—Make a list of at least ten people for whom you will pray daily. Include your friends, your enemies, those you don't particularly like. Forgive them if they have wronged you, and ask forgiveness if you have wronged them.

FIFTH WEEK: The Mind of Love—Use this week to pray for yourself and look inward. Read the Book of John. Plan to go to church early on Palm Sunday, to meditate in the sanctuary.

SIXTH WEEK: The Victory of Love— This is the week of celebration. God's love for us is revealed in many ways. Get outdoors and breathe in the air of spring. Have friends in for dinner and games. Let your joy be full with life abundant in faith, hope and love.

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



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APRIL 2025
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Friday,
March 21st

**McAllister Memorial
Presbyterian Church**
(540) 962-2675



admin@mcallistermempcusa.org
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

online giving link:

Rev. James Edward Moss
Cell phone: 434-738-8841
revjimmos95@gmail.com



- 1—Owen Horton
Charlie Walker
Robbie Wood
- 3—Pam Poague
Howard Thompson
- 4—April Reyns
David Smith
Jerry Taylor, Jr.
- 5—Richard Downer, Sr.
Pearl Miller
- 6—Marshall Fox
Kelsey Young
- 9—Andy Dreszer
Brielle Smith
- 12—Jason Hill
Harper Young
- 13—Matt Sponaugle
- 14—Megan Boone Plott
- 17—Casey Hicks

- 17—Gene Wood
- 18—Donna Fox
- 19—Jennifer Hannah
- 20—Jessica Q. Scruggs
Cindee Stinnett
- 21—Norma Curtin
- 23—Tiana W. Hodge
- 24—Kathy Crutchfield
Emily Whitehead-Lolandes
Erica Whitehead
- 26—Mike Fleenor
Logan Hill
- 27—Izzy Boone
Kaitlyne Potter Law
Chloe Reid
Tara Uzzell
- 29—Lynn Whitehead
- 30—Maryemma Shifflett
- 31—Jeremy Bartley
Brandi Carper Barr
Mary L. Gudgeon

Happy Anniversary!

- 4—Joe & Pat Martin
- 6—Bert & Betsy Caul
- 10—Jim & Margaret Moss
- 21—Robbie & Jeff Horn
- 29—Bucky & Doris Mottern

Finding God in our Community



Look at what "2 Cents" can do!



FACES Food Pantry



Endorsed by College Presbyterian Church, in Hampden-Sydney, VA, in several ways **FACES Food Pantry** aims to reduce food insecurity within Prince Edward, Charlotte, and portions of Cumberland Counties.

Operating out of a newly constructed warehouse, FACES

provided 135,000 meals last year to those experiencing homelessness, to qualified students on the weekends, and to families in crisis in partnership with Madeline's House. In addition to these programs, to assist persons with food preparation, FACES offers cooking classes a few times a year!

"neighbor helping neighbor"

Aren't you glad that we can find encouragement, hope and possibilities all around us? We can find God in the **FACES Food Pantry** of Farmville, VA.



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

vernier@peakspresbytery.org



According to Director Paul Baker, FACES began in 1981 with four local churches joining together to assist in the fight against food insecurity but has since grown into a two-location operation. Of course, this growth is bittersweet as it highlights the need for continued vigilance against hunger.

Easter in a Good Friday World

(An excerpt from a sermon by Bass Mitchell)

I believe that we cannot even begin to understand or experience Easter unless we have been through Good Friday – unless we have been where Mary was – our heart broken, our eyes blurred with tears, our spirits crushed by grief. You do not get to Easter Sunday without going through Good Friday!

Her name was Teresa. She was the daughter of my favorite professor in college. She was a wonderful person – gifted, an artist, just married, her whole life ahead of her... but she grew ill and eventually died. I was with him through some of that experience... and let me tell you, it was Good Friday a long time for him and his family. But I will never forget something he said to me soon after her funeral:

"Until you stare death eye-to-eye, Easter is just a word, a nice day with bunny rabbits and eggs... but when someone so precious to you dies, Easter becomes everything... an anchor in a fierce storm... a rock on which to stand... a hope that raises you above despair and keeps you going..."

He had taught about Easter all his life, you see, but not until he went through his own Good Friday did he begin to understand it, to experience its power. I did not understand all he meant at the time because I had not suffered enough... had not been through enough Good Fridays... but now I understand... when my father died several years ago, this blessed hope, this Easter became much more than a belief, it became a heartfelt hope, a wondrous promise to stand on when everything else was being shaken to its foundations.

For it is true – when you stare death face to face, the death of those you love or your own, Easter takes on a whole new significance for you...

You do not get to Easter Sunday without stopping for a while on Good Friday.

Church ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEXT SESSION MEETING:

Sunday, March 16
immediately after worship



Circle 3 — Tuesday,
March 12, 5:30 p.m.
(attending Lenten Lunch)

Circle 4 — Wednesday,
March 12, 12:30 p.m.
at church

Scott Scholarship

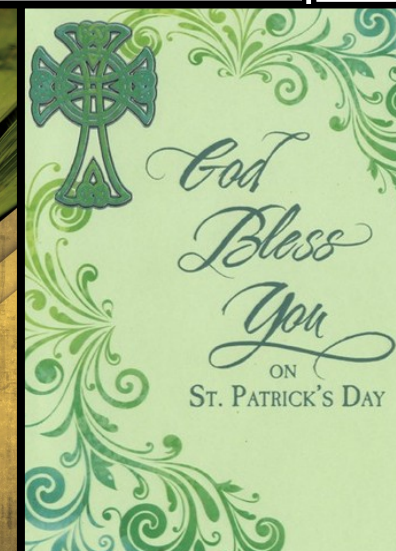
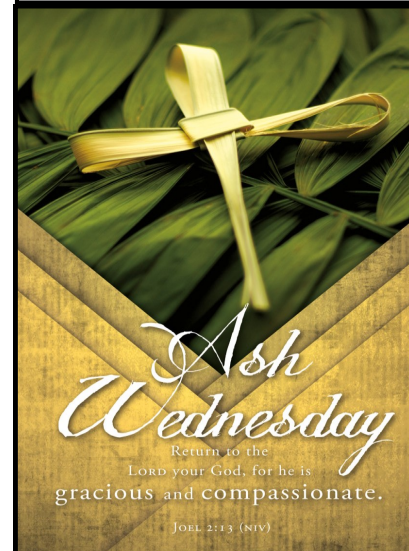
It's not too early to apply for the Scott Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office. Applicants must be a **member** of McAllister Church!



Adult Choir Rehearsal:
Tuesdays @ 3:00 p.m.

Adult Bible Study:
Wednesdays @ 6 p.m.

Handbell Choir Practice:
Thursdays @ 2 p.m.



SPRING FORWARD
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR
MARCH 9

***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

Amanda H. Bartley	Steven Craft	Jeremy Bartley	Cassie Bowles
Jill Hyatt	John Gherman	Marion Tatum Fauver	Carol Bush
Tyler Jackson	Bonnie Grimes	Gail Gibson	Andy Dreszer
Pam Key	Doug Hollenback	Kyle Keyser	Taj Hall
Ray Parish	Ben Hubbard, Jr.	Pat, Leslie Martin	Joe Martin
Ernie Townsend	Linda Keyser	Mary Mays	Brian Middleton
Rilee Webb	Tammy Paitsel	James Queen	Jim Moss
H.L. Wickham	Brian Rice	Shirley Sizemore	Joyce Myers
Weikle Family	Hudson Rice	Pat Smith	Dorothy Nicely
Young Family	Buzzy Riley	Susan Sponaugle	Burton Poague
Flooding victims	Penny Stone	Jerry & Darlene Taylor	Pam Poague
	Susan Terrell	C.M.S. students,	The Bolden Family
	Lennox Webb	faculty, families,	The Wolfe Family
		administration	Plane crash victims

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, Jerry Ballengee, Dennis Brinkley, Edgar Brinkley, Jimmy Brown, Linda Caldwell, Sandra Capps, Harry & Jean Casey, Joyce Clark, Luke Crawford, Barry Daniel, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Renee Y. 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 Mutspaugh, Denise Pillow, Clayton Plecker, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Pat Smith, Angie Sponaugle, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Greg Vess, Shirley Wickline, Gwen Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe Non-believers, Our Church, Unspoken Prayers, Local First Responders, Our Nation, Our Troops & Government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East



February 9, 2025 Valentine's Luncheon



Deaths

Mary Ann T. Bowen
 Stephen G. Butler (72)
 Robert Church, Jr.
 V. H. "Jenny" Cronk
 Eugene W. Crowder
 Hazel M. Nicely
 "Stan" W. Nicely, Jr.
 Jerry Phillips, Jr.
 Robin D. Rickett
 Mitzi W. Ridgewell
 "Steve" A. Weikle
 Marjorie E. Windon

Cheryl L. Cale
 Lisa T. Hayslett
 Roger Dale Hite
 Deniece M. Hubbard
 Jerry R. Nicely, Sr.
 Alpha O. Paitsel, III
 Beverly Simpson
 Shirley M. Sizemore
 Elizabeth Spinks
 David N. Vess, Sr.

Lynn M. Agee
 Donald H. Baker
 Michael W. Brown (70)
 Carl Dean Duncan
 J. "Jay" E. Ewing
 Rosalee G. Martin
 Jolonda C. Pendleton
 Alice W. St. Clair
 Eva W. Winkler

Brennan Ayers
 Chris Ayers
 Robert L. Glendye
 Adah K. Hosey
 Marvin E. Nicely, Jr.

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



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

- † Danny Rodgers on the loss of his aunt, Elizabeth Spinks.
- † Gina Tingler, member, on the loss of her cousin, Brennan Ayers.
- † Marshall Fox, member, on the loss of his uncle, Donald Baker.
- † Kenny Duncan on the loss of his father, Carl Duncan.
- † Anyone having recently experienced a loss.

Notes From Pastor Jim



- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped with the Valentine's Lunch and to everyone who brought food. It was a successful event, the food was delicious, and everyone had a good time.
- ◆ The Ash Wednesday service will be at First Presbyterian Church at 4:30 on March 5. We will be joining with the other area Presbyterian churches. The service will be followed by a soup and sandwich supper.
- ◆ McAllister will host the first in a series of Lenten Luncheons on Wednesday, March

12 at noon. Join us as we gather with churches from around the Covington area.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the Lenten lunches:

March 19 – First Christian Church

March 26 – Good News Fellowship

April 2 – TBA

April 9 – Gospel Tabernacle

- ◆ McAllister will host a St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Sunday, March 23 immediately following worship. It will be a salad lunch. Please bring a salad or dessert to share with everybody.

AVERAGE FEBRUARY '25 SUNDAY
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

59

Class of 2027 Ruling Elders Installed

As the only Class of 2027 elder that has not served previously, Clyde Landis, Jr. kneels before the congregation while former and current elders come forward to assist in the ordination.



The Class of 2027 (L-R: Jill Shifflett, Lee Ann Poague, Gina Tingler, Chuck Bartley, Clyde Landis, Jr.) are installed by Reverend Jim Moss and Elder Jim Faidley.



McAllister Church approved and installed the newest elders of the

CLASS OF 2027 on Sunday, February 2nd, 2025:

Chuck Bartley
Clyde Landis, Jr.
Lee Ann Poague
Jill Shifflett
Gina Tingler

Thank you to the outgoing elders, the Class of 2024:

Priscilla Downer
Jim Faidley
Becky Hayslett
Howard Poague
Debbie Rodgers



We are grateful for your service to McAllister Church during your tenure. Your extra time and dedication to the church is greatly appreciated.

Thank you all!

Sincere Appreciation and Thanks

Thank you to Meals-On-Wheels volunteers for 2024:

Gary Rice, Harry Casey, Chuck & Jean Bartley, Jim & Marlene Faidley, Marshall & Donna Fox, Debbie & Steve Bennett, and Bucky Mottern. God bless you for your kindness!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RACHEL REYNS (MEMBER)
FOR MAKING THE FALL PRESIDENT'S LIST
AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO COOPER RICE (son of Chris Rice, member, and grandson of Gary Rice, member) for making the Fall Vice President's List at Mountain Gateway Community College!

2025 EASTER LILY FORM



Please use this form to remember or honor a loved one(s). Please return this form to the church office or place in the offering plate.

Ordering Deadline: Sunday, April 13th

Each \$13 order = one lily plant. Donors will be recognized Easter Sunday. Lilies may be picked up after worship on Easter Sunday.

Given By: _____

In Honor OR Memory of (circle one):

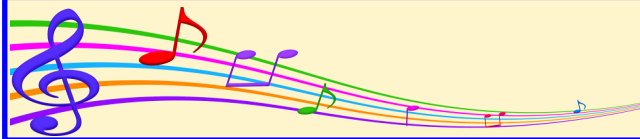
Number of Plants: _____ **@ \$13 each = Total \$:** _____

For those wishing to give monetary gifts - no lily purchase - please use the portion below:

MONETARY GIFT ONLY—no lily requested

Given By: _____

In Honor OR Memory of: _____
(circle one)

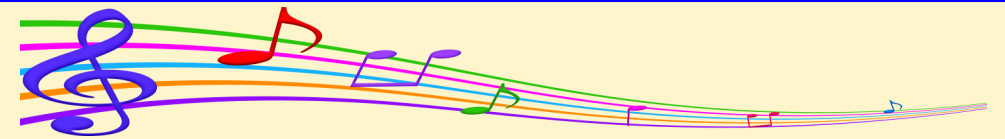


Musical Minute

Andy and I have long known that we hit the proverbial “neighbor jackpot” when we bought our home twenty years ago, but we were acutely reminded of that fact during January and February’s challenging snow and ice storms. I’d canceled McAllister’s choir rehearsal after Covington’s first major snowstorm of 2025 (which within a matter of hours turned into an impenetrable layer of ice), and I was determined to make it to choir the following week. By then, Andy had been up and down the driveway a few times in his truck and we were both convinced (somewhat) that I could manage the same in my car. Arriving home from the church that evening (with a full load of groceries in the back of the vehicle) I called Andy to let him know I was about to make my ascent. Sadly, about halfway up the drive, the rump of my car slid off the road into an icy ditch. I tried a few times to get “unstuck,” but knew I could easily make matters worse by doing so, and finally I called Andy again to let him know what had happened.

In true gallant fashion, my dear, dear husband pulled my heaviest winter coat from the closet, walked it down the driveway to me, and escorted me up the hill to our toasty-warm home. He then headed out to the barn in the frigid air to get the Gator and some digging implements so he could extricate my Honda. Within two minutes after he left, the doorbell rang! How could that be? There is one way in and one way out of our place. My first thought was that Andy had forgotten the barn keys, but then I thought, “No. He couldn’t possibly have made it to the barn and back in such a short time.” I checked the backdoor. Nope—no one there. When I opened the front door, there was our neighbor Patrick. With a big smile on his face he asked, “How do you expect me to deliver your packages if you’re going to start parking in the middle of the driveway?!” Pat had come up to deliver a package UPS had dropped off for us at his place since the UPS guy couldn’t get up our driveway either. Pat left his truck behind my car and walked the package up while Andy was in the barn. In the meantime, Andy had returned to my car, found Patrick’s truck but no Pat in it and was concerned that Pat had somehow gotten trapped under one of the vehicles. He was relieved and surprised to see Patrick walking down the driveway a minute or so later. Pat, who had just gotten in from work, went home to change into some warmer clothes, and then, as he has always done, he came to help. The first order of business was to transport the groceries up the hill in the increasing darkness. It then took an additional hour and a half, at least, for them to get my car out of the ditch. That was Tuesday.

The following Friday, the FedEx driver made his first attempt in two weeks to get up our drive. The driver called us for help when he slid into a ditch not too far from where I’d gone off. Andy sighed and headed out to the barn again for the Gator and some tools . . . About a minute later, the phone rang again. It was Patrick— who had the



misfortune to be off from work that day! He’d seen the driver head up our drive, but hadn’t seen him come back down. I gave him the bad news. By the time Andy got down the drive, Patrick was waiting and together they rescued the hapless young driver and his van.

In the midst of all this driveway drama, Andy expressed his concern to Patrick about the dwindling level of heating oil in our tank and the upcoming bitter weather that was forecast. He had phoned the oil company several weeks earlier, but until things thawed a bit, the delivery truck couldn’t make it up the drive. Normally we heat with wood during the winter months, but for various reasons we’ve used our oil furnace this year and without a tank refill, it looked like Andy might need to get the woodstove fired up. After helping Andy get the FedEx driver out of the ditch, Patrick stayed for several more hours to help Andy transport wood from the wood pile to the wood shed so we’d be ready if needed. And Pat didn’t stop there. Later that evening he called his brother Dave, a good friend of ours, who called Jason, another mutual friend. About eight o’clock the next morning, Jason pulled up the still treacherous driveway in his powerful white pickup truck, like a hero from a fairy tale on a mighty white steed. In tow he had two hundred gallons of diesel fuel to tide us over until we could get our oil delivery. We were overwhelmed with gratitude.

Famed children’s advocate and television personality, Fred Rogers, encouraged children to “look for the helpers” in times of trouble or distress. It was wisdom that his own mother had shared with him when he was just a child. I’ve always believed that there are helpers all around us. I think I knew it deep in my heart—even before I ever heard Mr. Rogers’ mantra. I don’t know if this belief stems from naïveté or from the fact that I grew up in a small town where interactions with neighbors and strangers were plentiful and generally, friendly. Usually, my fanciful notion of people’s innate kindness proves true. Or to put it a different way, I’d guess that for every, how shall I say, “unpleasant individual” I’ve encountered, there have been at least 50 nice people who followed to balance out everything! And I’ve lost count of the times I’ve been absolutely stunned by someone’s generosity, compassion, and grace.

It seems that where we live, we don’t even need to “look for the helpers.” Thankfully, they come and find us! May God bless our friends, family, and the strangers who help us along our way. And may we all have opportunities to repay their generosity in kind. And I’m hoping that for every jerk (There—I said it.) you run into this year, there are exponentially more kind people who follow. I’m also hoping that our driveway doesn’t get iced over again this winter. I’ll bet Patrick is hoping so, too!

Beth