

McAllister Messenger

APRIL 2025

A Word From Your Pastor

~ *What If There Were No Easter?* ~

Everybody loves a beautiful sunset. It can be breath-taking to watch the sun slowly dip below the horizon, with all of the beautiful colors that result. As we say goodbye to the sun, we marvel in the beauty that is God's creation.

We may not think about it this way, but each sunset comes with a promise. We are assured that when the sun sets in the west and nightfall arrives, that we will see the sun again when it rises in the east. It is guaranteed. We never doubt, even for a second, that the sun will rise again.

But what if we didn't know this? What if, when we watched the sun dip below the horizon in the evening, we did not know whether we would ever see it again? How terrifying would that be? How panicked would we be, thinking that we would never again enjoy its light and its warmth?

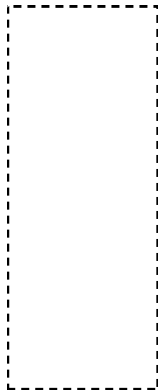
Not knowing whether the sun will ever rise again is similar to not believing in the resurrection. What if we knew that Jesus had been crucified, but did not know that on the third day, he rose from the dead? What if we had Good Friday, but didn't have Easter? It would be terrifying. It would be very disturbing to believe that the Son of God had been sent to his death on the cross, and that this was the end of the story.

This frightening reality is what the first disciples went through when Jesus was crucified. As they stood at the foot of the cross and watched their savior die, they thought that they would never see him again. Jesus had tried to tell them that he would be killed and then rise on the third day, but this was too much for the disciples to understand.

We enjoy a luxury that those first disciples did not. We know that Easter follows Good Friday. Each year, when we read the story of Christ's crucifixion, we follow it up with the story of the empty tomb. We meet the story of Christ's death with the story of Christ's victory over death. Just as we know that the son will rise in the morning, we know that the Son will rise on the third day. Can you imagine how terrifying it would be not to know this?



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



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**McAllister Memorial
Presbyterian Church**
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online giving link:

Rev. James Edward Moss
Cell phone: 434-738-8841
revjimoss95@gmail.com





1—Katie Nida
Martha Wilhelm
2—Maci Johnson
3—Mallory Hale
4—AdriAnne Reynolds
6—Cody Nida
Kim Young
7—Layken Young
8—Angela Sponaugle
10—Gayle Martin
11—June Anne Cooke
12—Gaynna H. Smith
14—Leslie Nicely
15—Priscilla Moncus
17—Mahaley R. Broughman

18—Anita Rice
Mike Young
19—Josephine O'Rourke
20—Olivia Bryant
21—Hayden Rodgers
22—Lee Ann Poague
23—Derek Gibson
24—Julie McCormack
25—Cody Thompson
Alan Whitmer
26—Amy Ray
27—Betsy Caul
Steve Craft
Heather R. Riley
29—Patrick Scruggs
30—Lee Patterson
Ronnie Poague

Happy Anniversary!

4—Pat & Aubrey Bowling
11—Jason & Tamara Hill
15—Stacey & Jamie Bryant
Ricky & June Anne Cooke
20—Mahaley & Holden Broughman
22—Alan & Kristin Downer
Erik & Haley Young
30—Evelyn (Scruggs) & Joe Amos

Wish you a Very Happy Easter !!!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ... 1 Peter 1:3



www.TheQuotes.Net

H·A·P·P·Y Easter

I awoke before dawn this Easter morn,
Laid very still and just thought,
Not of the eggs and bunnies that Easter brings,
But of the gift of life that it brought,
I thought of that cross he carried,
That crown of thorns on his head,
The nails into his body they buried,
Betrayed by even those that he led,
Up that road to Calvary,
Totally sinless too,
Jesus paid the ultimate out of love,
He died for me, for you,
Love keeps no records of right or wrong,
Love doesn't keep a score,
To our Father in heaven we all belong,
Just as on that day long before,
I looked in the room at my sleeping sons,
Tears slipped from my eyes,
God had done more than I could have done,
To just watch as my son suffered and died,
My Easter held such meaning then,
As I watched the dawn breaking through,
Just thinking of that day so long ago,
When God did what I could not do.

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Church ANNOUNCEMENTS



SESSION:
**THERE WILL BE
NO APRIL 2025
MEETING!**



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Circle 3 — First
Tuesday of the month,
5:30 p.m. (church)
Circle 4 — First Wed.
of the month,
12:30 p.m. (church)

Scott Scholarship

It's not too early to apply for the
Scott Scholarship
Applications are available in the
church office & due by June 1st.
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.

NOTICE—FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEOS:

Facebook is rolling out changes to its storage policy for Facebook live videos and **will be deleting all Facebook Live videos older than 30 days.** Starting February 19, Facebook Live videos will be retained for 30 days by default on McAllister's Facebook Page or profile. After 30 days, we will **no longer be able to access our live broadcasts and they will be automatically removed from our profile and Page and will be deleted from Facebook's servers.**



RELAY FOR LIFE

McAllister's Relay for Life team will sponsor a fundraiser at **Michael's Pizzeria in Covington** on **Monday, April 7** from **5PM to 9PM.** Our team will receive 10% of the total sales conducted that evening. We encourage all church members and their families to dine to support this great cause!

***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

Teresa Carter	Lindy Bazzrea	Debbie Amos	Ron Bartley? Hardy?
Roger Evans	Margaret Burks	Sherry Breeden	Gerald Gibson, Jr.
Bonnie Grimes	Luke Crawford	Andy Dreszer	Billy Hall
Sherry Lumpkin	Jared Downer	Joyce Emerson	Rob Honts
& family	Jim Moss	Pope Francis	Robert A. Jackson
Pat Martin	Margaret Moss	Brycen Griffith	Lexi May
Ben Milton	Bobby Joe Rice	Meg Jackson	April Reyns
Melvin Persinger	Buzzy Riley	Christian Kessinger	Shell Shue
Linda Wickham	Cathy Rowan	Pam Key	Gina Tingler
Tornado victims	Pat Smith	Patsy Parker family	Jackie Whitehead
CMS students,	Natalie Sponaugle	Shirley Wickline	Myrtle Beach area
faculty, parents,	Durwin Waddell	VA Beach Police	Catrina Hill family
AHPS admin.	Eric Lee Family	officers family-friends	

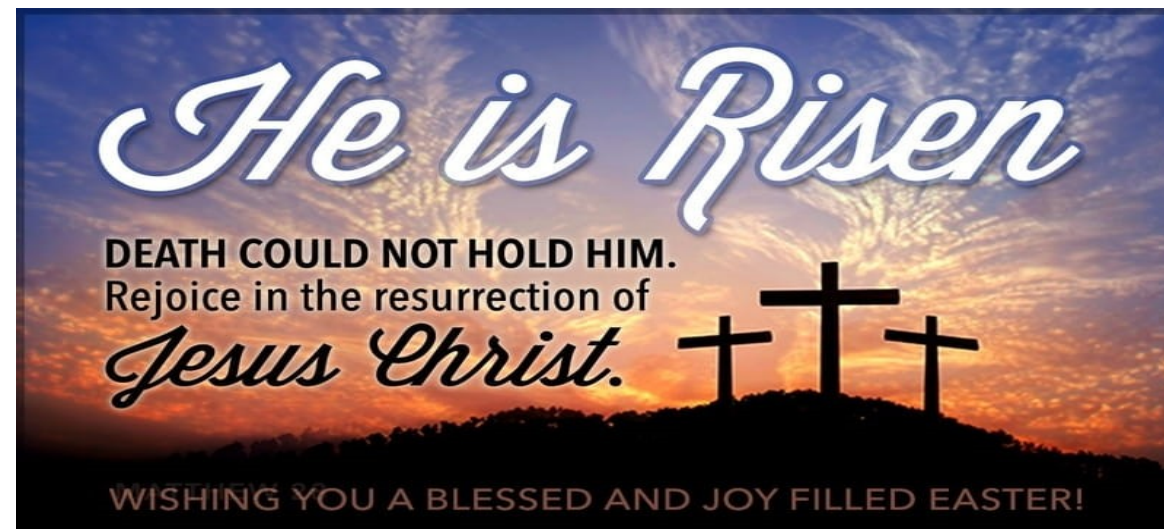
Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

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
CARRINGTON PLACE: B.A. 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 Mufspaugh, 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



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

John 11:25

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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W.R.E. (Weekday Religious Education) provides public school children with the opportunity to learn about the Bible in addition to their regular school curriculum. With parents' written permission, boys and girls in certain grade levels are released from school for a specified period to go to off campus facilities for religious instruction. The Bible is the primary text, and the curriculum is interdenominational, non-evangelistic, and has been approved by the Virginia Council of Churches and denominational leaders across the state of Virginia.

Local fifth grade students graduating from the W.R.E. program in May will receive new bibles. The W.R.E. program estimates the 2025 graduating class to be 200 students. The gifted bibles cost \$20.00 each thus making the total overall cost of these gifts approximately \$4000.

If you would like to donate to this wonderful program to help offset the overall cost of these graduation gifts the board would be most appreciative of your generosity. Donations can be mailed to:

W.R.E.
P.O. Box 185
Covington, VA 24426

Or, you may give through McAllister Church as W.R.E. is listed on the offering envelopes. The W.R.E. board would like to acknowledge that their last two monthly meetings have been held at McAllister Church. They are very grateful to be able to meet at such a nice location.

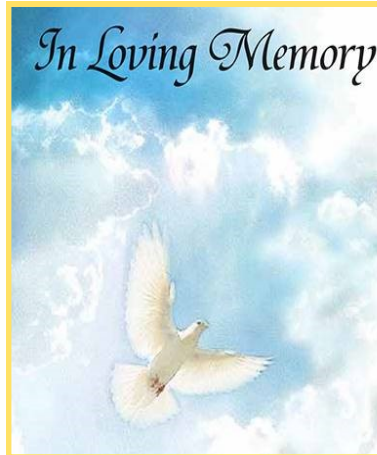
May the Lord richly bless each of you.

~W.R.E. Board

Deaths

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Quiton "Duane" Cox</i> | <i>Jamie W. Church</i> | <i>Billy G. Booker, Sr.</i> | <i>Patsy Parker</i> |
| <i>Fred C. Henn</i> | <i>Martin W. Dolin</i> | <i>Linda A. Brown</i> | <i>Jerry Lee Feury</i> |
| <i>David E. Jackson</i> | <i>Audrey R. Lear</i> | <i>Glenn E. Carpenter</i> | <i>Bob Gilbert</i> |
| <i>Donnie E. Mace, Jr.</i> | <i>Eric D. Lee</i> | <i>R. "Bobby" Crush, Jr.</i> | <i>Ben L. Hubbard, Jr.</i> |
| <i>D. "Louise" W. Mines</i> | <i>Leonard L. Meadows</i> | <i>Rita Ann C. Dodd</i> | <i>Donna Kate Myers</i> |
| <i>Kenzo Lee Walker</i> | <i>Billy J. Osborne</i> | <i>Frances Grumblatt</i> | <i>Jay Phillips</i> |
| | <i>Kenneth L. Reid</i> | <i>Rev. Steven Lewis</i> | <i>Marvin N. Scott</i> |
| | <i>Evelyn W. Simmons</i> | <i>Edward Loiseau, Jr.</i> | <i>Frankie Sellers</i> |
| | <i>Gladys Stalnaker</i> | <i>M. Beth Oneil Moody</i> | <i>T. "Danny" Warlitter</i> |
| | <i>Ralph W. Patterson</i> | <i>Thomas G. Perkins</i> | <i>Mark A. Weiss</i> |
| | <i>Vickie L. Whitworth</i> | <i>Ashton L. Rambo</i> | <i>James L. Whiting, Jr.</i> |
| | <i>Gary "Turkey" Williams</i> | <i>Maybelle S. Wright</i> | <i>Frank D. Williamson</i> |

Gifts in Memoriam



In Memory of Patsy Parker (member) by:

- Marshall & Donna Fox
- Lee Ann Poague
- Susan & Frank Sponaugle
- Paul Riley
- Dorothy Wimer
- Chuck & Jean Bartley
- Ann Roller Seagrave & Thomas Seagrave
- Vivian Turner and family
- Carol & James Hallett

(Any gifts for Mrs. Parker not listed here will be in next month's edition)

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



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

- † Rebecca Parker Hudson, member, on the loss of her mother, Patsy Parker, member.
- † Marlene Faidley, member, on the loss of her cousin, Bob Gilbert.

Youth Bowling Trip - February 23, 2025

Notes From Pastor Jim

♦ *The Lenten Lunches have been very well attended. Thank you to everyone who helped with the first Lenten Luncheon of 2025 at McAllister Church. These are the remaining lunches:*

March 26 – Good News Fellowship

April 2 – Parrish Court Methodist

April 9 – Gospel Tabernacle

Join us for a time of good food, fellowship and worship!

Thanks to those providing food and serving the bereavement meal for the family and friends of Patsy Parker in our fellowship hall on Sunday, March 9th.

♦ *April 6 will be a Communion Sunday!*

♦ *Here is the calendar for Holy Week:*

April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship, 11:00 am

April 17 – Maundy Thursday Worship @ Low Moor Pres., 7:00 pm

April 18 – Good Friday Worship @ First Pres., 5:30 pm

April 18 – Easter Egg Hunt, 6:00 pm

April 20 – Easter Sunrise Service @ Cliff View Golf Club, 7:00 am

April 20 – Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am

April 20 – Easter Worship, 11:00 am

Rev. Moss will be on vacation April 21-27. Patty Anderson will fill the pulpit on Sunday, April 27.

AVERAGE MARCH 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

54



New Member Reception: Welcome, Teresa Carter!

February 23, 2025

Teresa was received into membership through reaffirmation. Reverend Moss led the ceremony and was assisted by Elder, Marshall Fox.



CONGRATULATIONS



CONGRATULATIONS to Rachael Kinsey (member) & Alex Javins on the birth of their first child, a daughter, BRYNN ANNSLEE JAVINS
born February 23, 2025.
 Maternal grandparents are Christie & Ronnie Kinsey (members).
 Maternal great-grandparents are June Anne & Ricky Cooke (members).

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!" ~Psalm 139: 13-16

CONGRATULATIONS to Zach Nida & Abbie McDaniel
on the birth of their son,
BRYER STEVEN NIDA
born March 15th, 2025.



Paternal grandparents are Jenni (member) & Gene Hinton and the late Steve Nida. Paternal great-grandparents are Marshall & Donna Fox (members).
 Maternal grandparents are Clyde & Amanda McDaniel.

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)

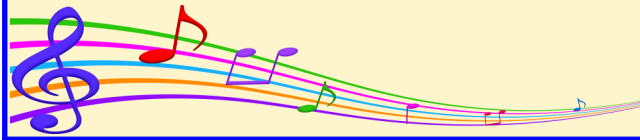
Number of Plants: _____ @ \$13 each = Total \$: _____

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

MONETARY GIFT ONLY—no lily requested

Given By: _____

In Honor OR Memory of: _____
(circle one)

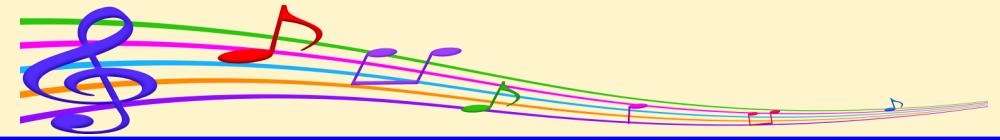


Musical Minute

In mid March, McAllister hosted a celebration of the life and resurrection of Patsy Arrington Parker, a cherished member and friend of the church, a gifted and beloved member of the choir, a former Sunday School teacher, and an almost lifelong resident of Covington where she contributed in innumerable ways, both professionally and personally. She accomplished much in her lifetime, but I think she would argue that her most significant contributions to the world were her two extraordinary (and loving, hysterically funny, daring, and empathetic) daughters, Rebecca and Susan, whom she raised along with some help from her husband, Orion, or Jr., as many of us knew him. She was also my "Aunt" Patsy, a loving and steadfast fixture in my life since I was a child, and a beacon in my musical upbringing. I can't remember a time in my life without her in it. It was a testament to her life and legacy that, through the efforts of many, we were able to field a chorus of more than 25 singers for her service, with vocalists from throughout the Allegheny Highlands and beyond volunteering their time and talents to a hastily assembled, but ultimately unified, choir. While most singers knew Patsy, there were also several who did not, which tells you much about the close-knit community of musicians in and around Covington. So often, they are called at the last minute to assemble in tribute to the life of someone who had donated their talents in much the same way they continue to do. Remarkably and unfailingly, they come. The music for Patsy's service was glorious, and the sight of the singers in the variously colored choir robes of their home churches was a visual treat.

Before her passing, Patsy specifically expressed a desire to have the anthem "Open Our Eyes" by Will Macfarlane sung at her funeral. I remembered it vaguely from the days when Frances Parker Rupert, Patsy's sister-in-law, was the Minister of Music at McAllister. I would guess that it's not been sung in our sanctuary since the early 1980s at the latest, but Patsy would have known it well. Copyrighted in 1925, it has aged beautifully, in both its message and its harmonies. It has moments of quiet, ethereal wonder and joy followed by thunderous measures that celebrate being in the presence of God. While the musical treatment makes it much longer, the text reads as follows:

"Open our eyes, O loving and compassionate, Jesus, that we may behold Thee walking beside us in our sorrow. Thou hast made death glorious and triumphant, for through its portals we enter into the presence of the Living God. Open our eyes, O loving and compassionate Jesus, that we may see to follow Thee, Jesus our Savior and Redeemer. Amen."



It was perfect for the occasion, as Patsy had known it would be, and members of McAllister's choir and members of the Allegheny Highlands Chorale along with a few unaffiliated singers worked diligently on it at separate rehearsals in the week leading up to the funeral. We all rehearsed together for the first time about two hours before the service and miraculously, we pulled it off.

My greatest find of the entire effort was the historic McAllister gold I discovered early in the week before the service. As I dug into the files of McAllister's ancient music library to find the anthem, I came upon some of Patsy's dear friends and cohorts—friends who would have sung the anthem alongside her in years past. There on the cover page of "Open Our Eyes," I found Helen Laudermilk, Wynona Crush, June Andrews, Loula Ervine, and Jr. Parker, Patsy's sweetheart and life-long partner—all treasured, former members of McAllister's choir. Eventually I found Patsy herself, identified on the front as PAP. I appropriated Patsy's copy for myself, hoping that it would give me strength and confidence as I navigated yet another funeral of a loved one. She had penciled some notes in on the soprano line, a reminder to "breathe," between the words compassionate and Jesus, and then "Me," with an arrow pointing downward, indicating that she with was to move from the dreaded high "g" of the soprano line to the more manageable "d" of the first alto line. As I prepared to play the anthem on the organ for our composite choir, I added my own penciled notes and reminders beneath Patsy's and I felt a little more secure in a week in which, I confess, I had felt a bit adrift. Patsy and I had this covered. All we needed to do was "breathe" and when something was too uncomfortable, maybe take it down a step or two and make things a little easier on ourselves. "This is beautiful music, not torture," she seemed to be saying. "We're going to make it through just fine (even the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of the service)." Thanks for the wise advice, Aunt Patsy. I miss your presence on this earth already. And thank you for all the love . . .

Beth

Thank you also to the many area vocalists who contributed to Patsy's celebration. Special thanks are due to Ann Scruggs who did a masterful job conducting us all.