

McAllister Messenger

MAY 2025

A Word From Your Pastor

~ SPRING IS HERE ~

Spring is finally here! We survived a long and harsh winter, and have arrived at what is my favorite season of the year. One reason it is my favorite is because it is a very spiritual time of the year. Here are five of my favorite things about spring, and what they can teach us about God and the gift of salvation:

- 1) Spring follows winter. Winter is my least favorite season, as it is for many people. The cold and the snow and ice are difficulties we have to survive. By mid-winter, most of us are more than ready for spring to arrive. And it always does. This teaches us that God will always bring us through difficult times. Whatever harshness we are experiencing in life, we can know that thanks to God's grace, things will always get better.*
- 2) Spring brings warmth. One of my favorite weather days of the year is the first truly warm spring day. How joyful it is to experience that first short-sleeve day! It reminds us that God brings warmth into our lives. We know the warmth of God's love and God's grace, which puts behind us the days of bitter coldness.*
- 3) Spring brings longer days. Daylight savings comes early in the spring season. I love that first evening when it doesn't get dark until about 7:30. And throughout spring, the days keep getting longer. It reminds us that God brings light into our lives. Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we know the joy of having more light in our world.*
- 4) Spring brings new life. This is perhaps my favorite aspect of spring. New life explodes all around us, from the budding of trees to the blossoming of beautiful flowers to the growing of green grass to the return of outdoor activities. It reminds us of the new life that we receive through Jesus Christ. It is no accident that Easter, the day above all days to celebrate new life, happens in the spring. Which brings us to my fifth and most important thing about spring:*
- 5) Spring brings Easter. What better way to celebrate new life than to joyfully proclaim the empty tomb and the resurrection? Easter always falls in springtime, which is the perfect time to celebrate the gift of new life. This is the day that we proclaim Jesus' victory over sin and death. And it's not just one day. It is an entire season, lasting for seven weeks throughout the season. So let us joyfully proclaim the resurrection throughout the time of spring!*



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



JUNE 2025
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:

Friday,
May 14th

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Covington, VA
Permit No. 67
Non-Profit Organization

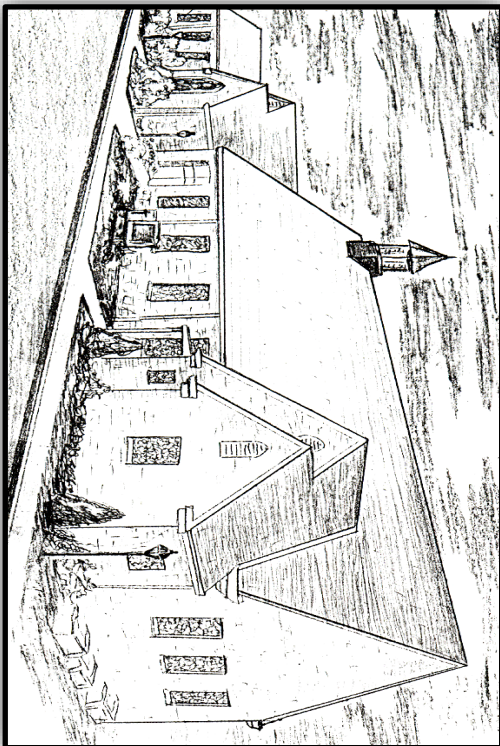
**McAllister Memorial
Presbyterian Church**
(540) 962-2675



admin@mcallisttermempcusa.org
www.mcallisttermempcusa.org

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

online giving link:



3—Shelly Curtis
Carter Hudson
Zak Nida
5—David Sponaugle
Erik Young
6—Brad Hannah
Angie Poague
7—Derrick Miller
8—Jeri O'Rourke
9—Doris Mottern
11—Gina Tingler
12—"N.J." Burks
13—Carole Lemon
14—Darlene Thompson
Eric Webb
Jerry Whitehead
15—Rachel Reyns
Van Walker

16—James Bush, Sr.
Maggie Webb
17—Butch Curtin
19—Amelia Nicely
Kai Rowland
22—Jenni Hinton
23—Brenda Walker
24—Dwain Tyree
Gary Walker
25—Tyler Bartley
Andrew Crawford
Jacob Downer
26—Ruth Caul
Rebecca Hannah
27—Jenny Crawford
28—Gus Hayslett, Jr.
31—Dusty Rowland

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Happy Anniversary!

6 — Steve & Donna Craft
11—Butch & Norma Curtin
22—Eric & Amanda Webb
30—Cody & Katie Nida

MEMORIAL DAY

PEACE

The Lord will mediate between nations
and will settle international disputes.
They will hammer their swords
into plowshare and their spears into
pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation,
nor train for war anymore.

- Isaiah 2:4 (NLT)

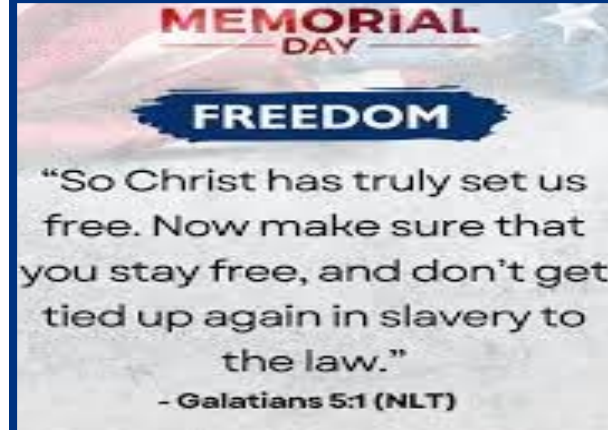


MEMORIAL DAY

FREEDOM

"So Christ has truly set us
free. Now make sure that
you stay free, and don't get
tied up again in slavery to
the law."

- Galatians 5:1 (NLT)



MEMORIAL DAY

RESTORATION

He will wipe every tear from
their eyes, and there will be
no more death or sorrow or
crying or pain. All these things
are gone forever."

- Revelation 21:4 (NLT)



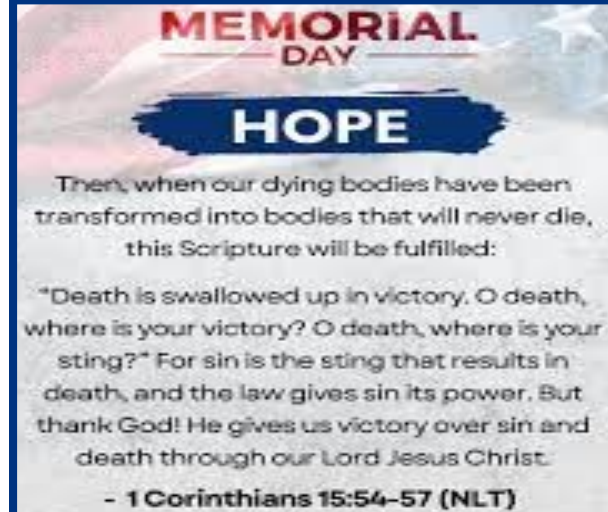
MEMORIAL DAY

HOPE

Then, when our dying bodies have been
transformed into bodies that will never die,
this Scripture will be fulfilled:

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death,
where is your victory? O death, where is your
sting?" For sin is the sting that results in
death, and the law gives sin its power. But
thank God! He gives us victory over sin and
death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (NLT)



MEMORIAL DAY

LOSS

"Father to the fatherless, defender of
widows—this is God, whose dwelling is
holy. God places the lonely in families;
He sets the prisoners free and gives
them joy. But He makes the rebellious
live in a sun-scorched land."

- Psalm 68:5-6 (NLT)





God made a wonderful Mother
A Mother who doesn't grow old.
He made her a smile of sunshine,
And a heart of pure gold.
In her cheeks he placed fair roses,
in her eyes, stars that shine.
God made a wonderful Mother,
And that wonderful Mother is
Mine.
Happy Mother's Day!

Proverbs 31:25-28

She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:






SESSION MEETING:

**SUNDAY,
MAY 18**

immediately after worship



Circle 3 — Second
Tuesday of the month,
5:30 p.m. (church)

Circle 4 — Second
Wed. of the month,
12:30 p.m. (church)

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

Adult Bible Study:
Wednesdays @ 6 p.m.

Handbell Practice:
Thursdays @ 2 p.m.

THURSDAY

Pray for America

NATIONAL

— ★ DAY OF ★ —

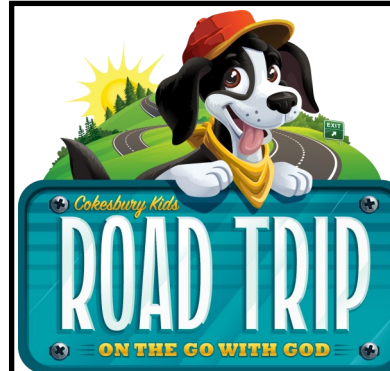
PRAYER

MAY 1st

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

McAllister Church will be having our annual
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

the week of JUNE 22—26, 2025



**The McAllister Church office
will be closed on
Monday, May 26
in observance of
Memorial Day.**



Prayer Concerns

Clark, Gloria Anders	Craig Back	Midge Akers	Chris & Ruth Caul
Allen Broughman	Levi Bartley	Debbie Amos	Cory Harrison
Marion Tatum Fauver	Beth & Andy Dreszer	James Crawford	Janet Hubble
Clarice, George Halsey	Linda Loving	Luke Crawford	Linda McKinney
Clara Jerman Hanna	George Persinger	Roger Evans	Carrie Paxton
Morgan Hall & baby boy	Buzzy Riley	Sam Hale	Christina Watts
Mildred McCabe	Mason, Hayden Rodgers	Ronnie Kinsey	Bonnie Grimes
Pat Smith	Sandy Rose	Wade Leech	Family
Frank Sponaule	Brielle Smith	Ben Martin	
Susan Terrell	Van Walker	McKinley Peters	
Linda Payton Wolfe	Linda Wickham	Kai Rowland	
Rev. Virgil Woody	Dot Wimer	Katie Stull	

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Phyllis Lynn, Bonnie Patterson (Rm. 101)
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, Barry Daniel, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Renee Y. Gann, Don Hampton, Cory Harrison, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Rob Honts, Janet Hubble, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Carole Lemon, Bebe Marshall, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mut-ispagh, Carrie Paxton, Denise Pillow, Clayton Plecker, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Mary Rice, James Rice, Pat Smith, Angie Sponaule, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Greg Vess, Gwen Wolfe, Jerry Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe. Non-believers, Our Church, Unspoken Prayers, Local First Responders, Our Nation, Our Troops & Government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East

2025 EASTER LILIES & GIFTS

Memorial Lilies

Theo & Ruby Craft, Roscoe Craft, Curtis Craft by Donna, Jeremiah, Lauren, and Cheston Walker
Gail L. Washburn by Larry A. Washburn
Gail L. Washburn by Michelle Reid
Ed Gibson by Jean & Harry Casey
Family Members by Marshall & Donna Fox
H.M. Queen Elizabeth II by Maria Necolau
Elizabeth & Pete Necolau, Nancy & Carl Nicely by Maria Necolau
Jack, Helen, Jesse, Brian, Richard, Jonathan, Wallace O’Conner,
Ashley Hepler, Bobby Wilhelm, and Trucky Lemon by Their Family
Mr. & Mrs. A.A. Hayslett, Sr. by The Hayslett Family
Buddy Young by Margie and Young Family
Ed Gardiner by Ruth Gardiner
Bonnie Rice by Gary Rice & Family
Richard & Carol Ayers by Harry, Gina, Adam, and Kelley Tingler
Henry & Zula Tingler by Harry, Gina, Adam, and Kelley Tingler
Susan Parker Potter by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
Arnold Hostetter by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
Donald, Joyce, and Jay Scruggs by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Duncan
Carl & Hilda Duncan by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Duncan
Frances & Burdette Rupert by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Duncan
“Pookie” & Ginger Leitch by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Duncan
Orin & Patsy Parker by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Duncan
George & Joy Noel by Bobby Rice Family, Rick Noel Family, Barbara Noel
Percy & Beulah Newcomb by Bobby Rice Family, Rick Noel Family, Barbara Noel
Raymond & Allene Rice by Bobby Rice Family, Rick Noel Family, Barbara Noel
Loressa, Gil, Colton Poague and Berkley Key by Pam Key
Mr. and Mrs. Powell M. Leitch, Jr. by Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Dreszer by Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer

Honorary Lilies

Callie Uzzell, Kinley Uzzell, and Margaret Griffith by Maria Necolau
Maria Necolau by Callie & Kinley Uzzell
Pearl Miller by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
B.A. Rupert, Jr. Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
Beth Dreszer and the McAllister Choir by Tammy Scruggs-Duncan

Gifts in Memoriam and Honorarium

Bill & Janet Gurd, Matthew W. Rodgers by Danny & Debbie Rodgers
Annie Miller, Tallie Miller, Tanya Cates, Peggy Redmon, and Colton Poague by Lee Ann Poague
Annie & Harry Stinespring by June Anne Cooke
Gerald Gibson, Sr. and Stacey N. Gibson by Betty Gibson & family
Elmer & Charlotte Keyser by Keyser Family
Libby Riley & Lucas Riley by Paul Riley, Kylene R. Smith, and Katie Riley
The Parker and Rupert Families by Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer
Grover T. & Audrey Barnett Jamison, Sr. by Dorothy Bush
Clarence and Mary S. Bush, Sr. by Dorothy Bush
Kenneth & Virginia Jamison by Dorothy Bush
Clarence H. Bush, Jr. & Elsie Bush by Dorothy Bush
Grover (Tim) Barnett, Jr. by Dorothy Bush
Bob Bush by Dorothy Bush
Shirley Bush Morris by Dorothy Bush

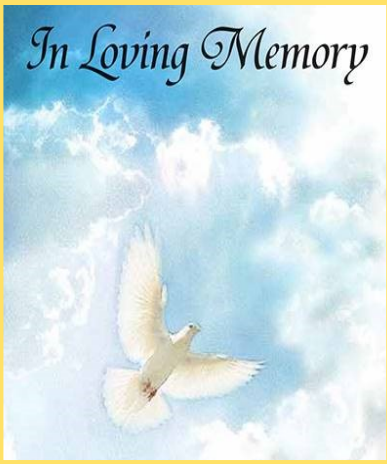
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, BF/worship



Deaths

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Donna L. Bland | Steven L. Allen | W. "Bill" E. Bookman | H. "Tommy" Alfred |
| Grayson F. Comer, Sr. | Jean "Pat" Lambert | Bre Burkholder | R. "Dickie" Lee Bell |
| Harriet M. Defibaugh | Leonard G. Minnix | Delmas E. Burns | Boyd R. Bratton |
| Donna Kate Myers | Harry J. Newman | Corey Allen Byrd | Harold D. Cooper |
| K. "Scotty" Nida, Jr. | Evelyn B. Peery | W. "Boomie" J. Cosby | Malvin C. Fridley |
| Melvin D. Persinger | Tommy "T.V." Riddle | William Howard, Jr. | H. "Bonnie" Grimes |
| Guy E. Showalter | Linda W. Sartain | Jill S. Hyatt | Johnny R. Kitt |
| Stephany H. Williams | Willie Simmons | Judy G. Kearns | Velma N. Musser |
| S. "Hank" J. Wolfe | Ronnie K. Stuart | Michael W. Marion | "Bert" Schakerman |
| | Shirley B. Wickline | | Robert D. Wells |
| | | | J. "Jim" Woodson |

Gifts in Memoriam



In Memory of Patsy Parker (member) by:

- † Pam Key
- † Howard & Pam Poague
- † Brenda Glenn Snzad & Robert Snzad
- † Tina Glenn Loan

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



- The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and our sincerest condolences to:
- † Clyde Landis, Jr. (member) on the loss of his aunt, H. "Bonnie" Grimes.
 - † June Anne Cooke and Harry Tingler on the loss of their cousin, Jill Stinespring Hyatt.

McAllister Easter Egg Hunt

Notes From Pastor Jim



♦ *I would like to personally thank Patty Anderson for filling the pulpit on Sunday, April 27th while I was out on vacation.*

♦ *Thank you to everyone who helped with the children's movie outing and the Easter Egg Hunt. We have a vibrant children's ministry, and it would not be*

possible without the dedication of our volunteers. A special thanks goes out to Cliffview Golf Club and Shirley Thompson for arranging our visit from the Easter Bunny!

♦ *Thank you to everyone who came out for the church spring clean-up morning. The outside of the building is looking good!*

♦ *The children and youth will be having a picnic on Sunday, May 4 immediately following worship. Location to be announced.*

♦ *Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day. The Women of the Church will be leading worship, and there will be a special gift for all women who are present.*

AVERAGE APRIL 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

76



the
HUNT
is ON!



McAllister kids enjoy "Movie Day"



With Deep Appreciation

McAllister Memorial,

I just wanted to say thank you. Some people in the church might know who I am from my family or my youth growing up in the community. My name is Luke Crawford. I have been incarcerated since 2017. During this time I lost a lot more than just time and freedom. I lost my grandfather (Bill Gurd), my mother (Linda Bogar), and my father (Robert Crawford) who all I miss dearly. I am sure whoever this letter reaches knows my Aunt Debbie (Rodgers). She has never given up on me or left my side before or after my hardship. She had faith in the person I was or could be when even I didn't. My whole family has shown the same support.

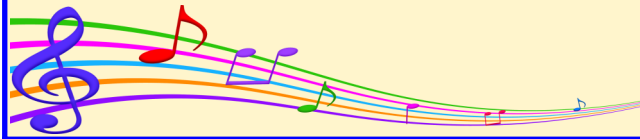
I am finally reaching the point of my thank you. Along with my family, the community of this church never left my side. I have always received a newsletter with my name listed for a prayer. When my family passed I would receive cards and letters. Prayer Circle #2 makes sure I always know someone other than my family is thinking about me. A special thank you to Mrs. Dorothy Wimer who always got a letter to me when it seemed I needed it most.

My next chapter in life is about to start. I hope to share my story of troubles and redemption to help someone not to choose my path of life. I hope to pass the warm love and God this community gave me to re-establish my faith.

There are a lot more people I could have named that deserve it. I just wanted the church to know it helped me.

~ Luke Crawford

***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.mcallisttermempcusa.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.

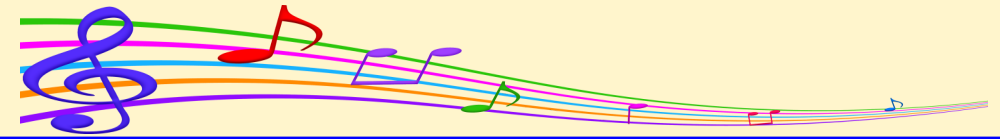


Musical Minute

I love Virginia and its four distinct seasons. And if you were to ask me on any given day of the year, I probably would tell you that “today” is my favorite season. I don’t know exactly when it is in a child’s development that we begin to look outward from ourselves and realize the existence and persistence of the changing seasons. Maybe it begins in primary school where we learn that “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb”; where we repeat after our teacher, “April showers bring May flowers.” While it has more to do with the weather than the seasons, I still remember mom pointing up to the evening sky and teaching me, “Red skies at night, sailors delight. Red skies at morning, sailors take warning.” Maybe we learn even before our early school days, as in our part of the globe at least, we come to relate the excitement of Christmas with the dark, bracing nights of winter, and the celebration of Easter with damp, dewy grass and cool mornings that often morph into glorious, sunny Sunday afternoons.

At some point in our lives, I think most of us come to not only sense the changing seasons, but to welcome each one in its turn. Maybe this is a trait we share with our wild animal counterparts. I’ve noticed that about the time the deer return to nibble on the field behind our home in late winter, I begin to crave all things green. When the deer retreat to the deep woods during the hottest part of the day in the summer, we humans, too, are inclined to find a shady spot to rest until the evening brings some relief from the scorching sun. Most of us come to know that wonderful sensation of stepping out on the porch after a long string of warm, perhaps even insufferably humid, late summer days and recognizing the undeniable feeling that, “fall is finally in the air.” It’s always a magical moment that puts many of us in pure “pumpkin mode.” The combination of temperature, low humidity, and things indefinable, makes us want to hunt and gather, to nest, to prepare for the cold that is to come. But in the meantime, there is this magnificent “cool,” full of moody anticipation, to enjoy.

Winter is one of my favorite times of year—its stillness, the gray and white sky before the sun sets, and the coziness of coming inside to the warmth and closing the door to the chill outside. I love the blackness of a winter night with the stars sparkling like distant diamonds. This winter had a few tricks up its sleeve, however, and the last six weeks or so I’ve found myself truly longing for my summer flowers on the deck and front porch and in the garden. The most difficult thing for me this time of the year is not to confuse these warm, sunny days we’ve been having with the actual safe planting date for our region. My seeds are all lined up on the counter and ready to go and I’ve even begun to accumulate plants. They’re waiting patiently (more patiently than I) under the grow lights in the basement. I keep turning them, changing their orientation to the light, trying to fend off the inevitable “legginess” that occurs when I purchase plants too early in the season. Our



official planting date in the Alleghany Highlands is May 15. As I write this, that’s less than a month away, but when I step out onto the deck this April afternoon and am met by 80 degree temperatures and humidity, I feel like I’ve already fallen a month behind.

When we lived in the Czech Republic, I was surprised to learn that, even though the winters seemed longer and more harsh than the winters to which I was accustomed in Virginia, the actual safe planting date in the region where Andy and I lived was the same as it is in Covington—May 15. My young Czech friend, Martin, who loved sharing fun facts with me about Czech culture, shared that the Czechs remembered the spring planting date by referencing the “three ice men,” the “tři ledoví muži.” The three ice men (or sometimes “frozen men”) turned out to be a reference to the Christian calendar of saints. Existing since at least the middle ages, the calendar of saints associates a particular date of the liturgical calendar with the holy feast date of each saint in the Christian church. (Here’s a fun little aside: Especially in the European Catholic tradition, most infants are given the name of a holy saint upon their birth and baptism. They then celebrate that saint’s feast day as their “name day” each year. This was all new to me when I began dating my future husband in the mid-1980s. In his Polish-Catholic family, Andrew grew up celebrating his name day [November 30] in addition to his actual birthday [March 9]. And while all of this is fascinating, and it truly is, I’ll leave it up to you to learn more about this beautiful tradition of name days. There is much about it on the internet. For now, back to the ice men!)

It’s probably a blending of Christian and folk traditions, but in Czech lore, as well as other European cultures, one legend of the ice men goes as follows: Three saints (or kings), Pankrác, Servác, and Bonifác, went to sea to fish, but they were frozen solid when the temperature suddenly dropped. (FYI: Their feast dates are May 12, 13, and 14, respectively) Not long after, St. Zofie (feast date May 15) came along. Finding the three saints frozen, she poured boiling water over them to thaw them out. The moral of the story is clear—no planting (or fishing at sea?) before the 15th of May! So in honor of the three ice men, I’ll try to hold off on putting my tender plants and seedlings in the garden for another few weeks. There’s not much worse than hoping for the best but getting the worst and finding their droopy, blackened stems after a late frost. It reminds me of another adage I learned as a child, “Good things come to those who wait.” For those of you who plant a garden, I wish you all the best during the coming growing season. We all appreciate it when you bring your excess bounty to church on Sunday morning! Whether it’s homegrown, gifted, or purchased, I hope we each have at least one perfectly ripened tomato on our plate this summer! Happy spring!

Beth