

# McAllister Messenger

JULY 2025

## A Word From Your Pastor “God’s Power and Love”

*I was sitting at my desk trying to think of something to write about for this newsletter. I was having a case of writer’s block, and couldn’t think of anything. That’s when God provided.*

*There was a clap of thunder, followed by a heavy rainfall. From this storm, which moved through Covington on a Monday afternoon, I was given something to write about. I would write about God’s power. And what better example is there of God’s power than a thunderstorm? The flash of lightning. The peal of thunder. The wind. The rain. It all comes from God, and it all shows just how powerful God is.*

*The author of Psalm 29 certainly felt God’s power in the storm. He writes the following: “Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength... The voice of the Lord is over the waters. The God of glory thunders... The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.”*

*This Psalm reminds us of who holds ultimate power. It’s not you or me. It’s not our political leaders. It’s not famous athletes or celebrities. It’s God.*

*This power, however, is not something to be feared. We don’t have to be afraid of God’s ultimate power because we know something else about him. We know that God loves us. The Scriptures are full of examples of God’s strength, but they are also full of examples of God’s love. Put these two together and we get something amazing: God’s grace. It is because of God’s great power and God’s great love that we are forgiven for our sin and given the gift of new life.*

*This combination of power and love is summed up nicely in the classic hymn “How Great Thou Art.” It says the following: “O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.” But then it goes on to say: “And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in. That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.”*

*So every time you hear the rumble of thunder from the sky, and every time you see a hard rain fall – think of God’s power – and also think of God’s love. And think of God’s grace which saves us.*



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



**AUG. 2025  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**  
Friday,  
July 18th

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

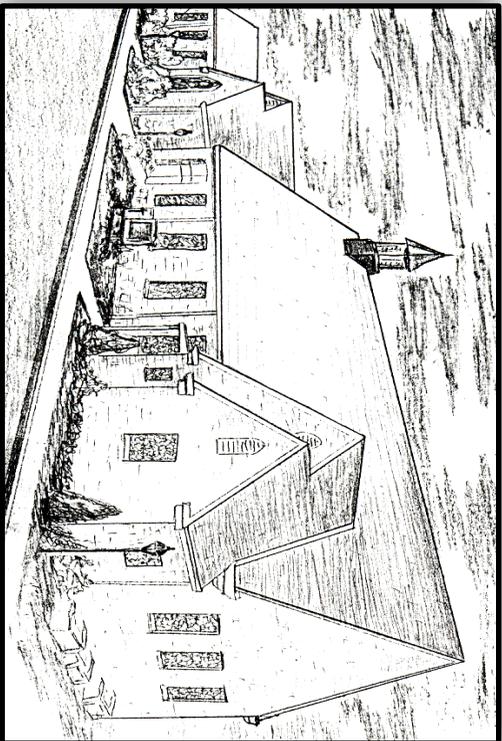
**McAllister Memorial  
Presbyterian Church**  
(540) 962-2675



admin@mcallistermempcusa.org  
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

online giving link:

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



- 
- 1—Abigail Poague**
  - 2—Evan Bishop, Neil Horn, Becky Hudson**
  - 3—Amy Bishop, Nick Leitch**
  - 4—Rilee Webb**
  - 6—Gene Hinton, III, Roberta W. Horn**
  - 7—Judy Whitehead**
  - 10—Bert Caul**
  - 11—Amy Hoover, Sierra D. Stanfield**
  - 13—Stephanie Kessinger, Brandon Sponaugle**
  - 14—Kyndle Koonce**
  - 15—Sara L. Nicely**
  - 17—Colt Nida**
  - 19—Jeremiah Walker**
  - 20—Jerry Givens, Sr.**
  - 21—Chuck Bartley, Cohen Long**
  - 22—Dorothy Wimer**
  - 23—Jeana Lee Colberg**
  - 24—Jagger Rowland**
  - 28—Racheal Kinsey, Joe Scruggs,  
Larry Washburn, Margie Young**
  - 29—Zayden Burks, Zane Burks, Parker Hudson**
  - 31—Tori Paxton**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**Happy Anniversary!**

- 3—Harry & Jean Casey**
- 8—April & Dusty Rowland**
- 15—Charity & Nathan Hale**
- 20—Tracey & Terra Walker**
- 25—Kylene & David Smith**
- 31—Debbie & Steve Bennett**

*Our Prayer*

**JULY 4**

*Psalm 37:6-7 (KJV)*

*Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*

Father, in the quietness of this moment, we consciously relax ourselves in Your presence and place the concerns and cares of our hearts before You. We trust, Dear Father, that You will act redemptively in our lives. We confidently place our souls, our future, and our hopes in Your hands. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

*L.S.O.*  
A.F.T.G.O.G./HEARTLIGHT




**THERE WILL BE NO SESSION MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2025.**



**Presbyterian Women will conduct their annual JOINT Circle meeting: Wednesday, 7/9/25—6PM—McAllister Church. Chicken & drinks provided. Everyone please bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert. Spouses welcome.**

COPE food pantry continues to see increased numbers of local residents utilizing their service. Recently, canned goods were running in short supply during distribution. As a reminder, any donations of non-perishable food or financial contributions are always greatly appreciated. THANK YOU to COPE's dedicated leadership and volunteers that make this vital mission possible.

**Music on the Corner**  
**First Presbyterian Church ~ Covington, VA**  
*We cordially invite you to an organ concert by Mitchell Garcia  
 In Honor of Sandra Dodd Minter  
 Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.  
 \*\*\*Donations to the Alleghany Highlands Arts Council\*\*\**



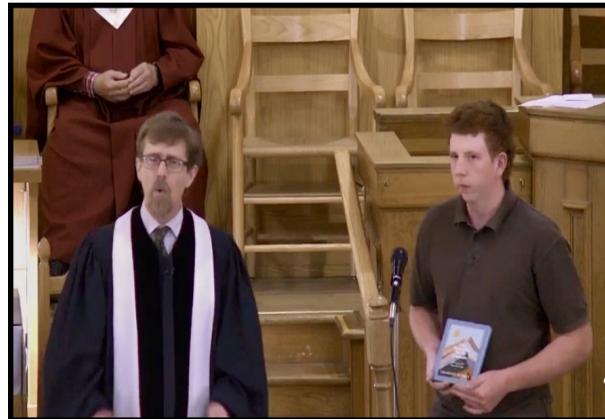
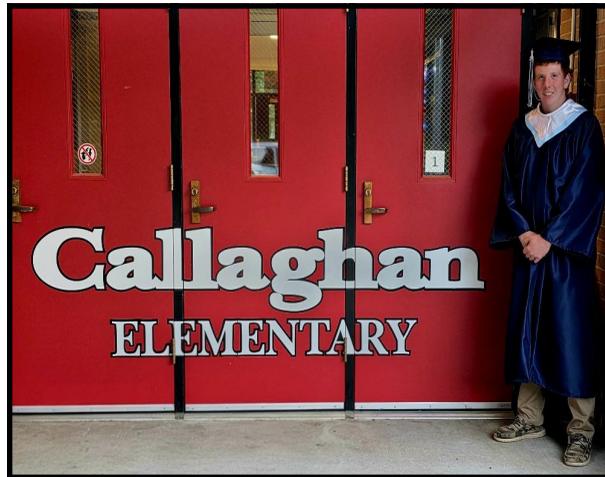

**The church office will be CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 4 In observance of Independence Day.**

Summer means that ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS & ADULT BIBLE STUDY are suspended for the season and will resume in September. HANDBELL PRACTICE is also cancelled for the summer.



## “Graduate Sunday” — Sunday, June 8

On this day we celebrated our sole graduate, RILEE WEBB, Alleghany High School, class of 2025. While at AHS, Rilee participated in cross country, indoor & outdoor track, and jv/varsity baseball. He also plays summer travel baseball as a loyal member of the Alleghany Dustdevils for TEN years. Often you can find him outdoors, doing what he loves - hunting, fishing, trapping, and camping. Rilee also works diligently at mowing, landscaping, and any other outside home care duties. He is a proud **SIXTH GENERATION MEMBER** of McAllister Church. After graduation, he plans to further his education at a trade school for linemen in Virginia or attend Mountain Gateway Community College. Rilee’s favorite memory of McAllister was participating in youth group with Libby Riley. He is the son of Eric & Amanda (Bartley) Webb, members, and the grandson of Chuck & Jean Bartley, members.



## Deaths

Larry N. Armentrout  
 Mark D. Asma  
 Peggy B. Carpenter  
 Sandra F. Dunaway  
 Everette La France, Jr.  
 Raymond A. Heigher  
 Carol K. Jones  
 Danny E. Lawhorn  
 Donald R. Ketron  
 Dr. Ben C. Meeks  
 W. “Bill” A. Potter  
 Betty L.S. Rogers  
 Vernie Boone Sexton



W. J. “Billy” Cosby  
 Maggie C. Humphries  
 James “Jim” M. Plott  
 Steven E. Scott  
 Billy M. Simms  
 Shirley June Smith  
 Terry Sutherland  
 Richard “Sarge” Watson  
 Deena G. Wheeler-Simmons  
 Roy W. Wright

## Gifts in Memoriam



In Memory of Carolę Lemon by:

- † Byron Faidley
- † PW Circle 4
- † Dot Winger

\*\*\*\*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](http://www.mcallisttermempcusa.org). To request a full color copy of this publication BY EMAIL, 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 and apologize for any error, misprint, 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.

## Notes From Pastor Jim



♦ *By the time you read this, we will be in the middle of our 2025 Vacation Bible School. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of those who are volunteering to help. It takes a committed team to make VBS work successfully. We are blessed to have such a great group of volunteers at McAllister Church. Thanks again!*

♦ *Session will not meet in July. We will resume with an August meeting.*

♦ *Thanks to those who have participated in our McAllister Team's Relay For Life fundraisers to date. This includes two evenings of dining at Michael's Pizzeria (one at the Covington location and the second at the Clifton Forge location).*

*Don't forget their final fundraiser—a spaghetti dinner and silent auction at McAllister Church on Friday, July 11th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at church. Dinners will include baked spaghetti, bread, salad, drink, and dessert. Costs are \$10 per adult and \$5 for children 6 years and under. Takeout and delivery around the Covington area will be available. Donations of silent auction items are due to Marlene Faidley by Sunday, July 6. If anyone would like to provide a baked spaghetti, dessert, or ingredients such as ground beef, spaghetti, sauce, evaporated milk, or sharp cheese for this event, please contact Diane Hicks or Pat Martin. You can also call the church office. Thank you.*

♦ **SAVE THE DATE!** *The annual McAllister Church picnic & pool party is slated for Sunday, August 3rd at the Covington City Pool. The picnic will immediately follow worship in the fellowship hall. The pool party will begin at the city pool from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Join us!*

**AVERAGE JUNE 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:**

60

## The T. Stratton & Helen J. Scott Scholarship Fund

### MEMORIALIZED BY THE PROGRAM

**Church Service:** The Stratton & Helen Scott Scholarship was initially founded in October 1999 in honor of two pillars of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church. Stratton joined in 1925 while Helen was a member since 1934. The succeeding decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century witnessed the Scotts' extraordinary service to their church. Stratton served as a deacon and elder. Helen was a Sunday School teacher and rendered service as a deaconess, committee worker, circle chairman, Bible teacher and President of the Women of the Church. In the larger church community, Helen also worked with local Christian youth and served as District Chairman and Vice President of the Presbyterian, as well as Treasurer of the Synod of Virginia. They celebrated their 77<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2005 prior to Stratton's passing. Helen passed away ten years later in 2015.

**Community Service:** Both Stratton and Helen performed extensive civic outreach throughout their lives. Stratton served as past master of the Covington Masonic Lodge #171 and District Grand Master of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District. Stratton also was active with the city food bank and food pantry at McAllister Church. Stratton and Helen both volunteered with the Meals on Wheels program. Helen is a past President of the Covington Women's Club and served on the city planning commission. She was also past President of the VFW Auxiliary to Post 1033. Both were deeply rooted in the community and open to calls upon their expertise and energies.

**Education Promotion:** Both Stratton and Helen were educated at the old Jeter School and Boiling Springs High School, respectively, and their regard for the educational process and their assistance of those who sought to better themselves through education was lifelong. They donated money and clothing to students throughout the years, but Stratton and Helen also were generous in giving of their time and even of their privacy - advising, encouraging, and housing students as needed. In short, the Scotts' promotion of education was a special ministry of the couple, and it is appropriate that a scholarship fund bears their name.

### NATURE OF THE FUND

**Perpetuity** – The Stratton and Helen Scott Scholarship is a perpetual fund. A base amount yielding interest from which scholarships are provided was donated by their two sons, Thomas Stratton Scott, Jr. and John Scott Lewis. The principal will not be depleted; therefore, the Scholarship will persist as a memorial fund.

The scholarship is a gift, not a loan. Donations to the fund are encouraged, as the increase of the principle invested will yield larger scholarship stipends in the future.

*We would like to sincerely thank John L. Scott, Sr. and Thomas Scott, Jr. for their continued contributions over the years in memory of their parents after their establishment of this wonderful scholarship fund.*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

2025 Scott Scholarship Recipient:

**RILEE WEBB—AHS Class of 2025**

McAllister Church congratulates you and covers you in prayer, promise, and inspiration in your future endeavors and upcoming pursuit in lineman trade school or at Mountain Gateway C.C.

*“May He grant you according to your heart’s desire,  
And fulfill all your purpose.”  
~ Psalm 20:4 ✝*

Former winners include: Jennifer Bush Hannah, Missy Washburn Reid, Jennifer Horn Lodge, Lorrie Whitehead Keister, Eric Hayslett, Jenna Lee Colberg, Megan Boone Plott, Kylene Riley Smith, Brittany Young Baker, Jacob Downer, Patrick Scruggs, Kaitlyn Potter-Law, Heather Young Johnson, Cody Nida, Katie Riley, Jared Downer, Mahaley Reynolds Broughman, Kelley Tingler, Tarie Warlitner, Kelsey Young, Maggie Webb, Derek Gibson, Makayla Webb, Adam Tingler, Holden Broughman, Danielle Conner, Kelley Tingler, Maggie Webb, Makenzie Shifflett, Olivia Bryant, Justin Leitch, Rachel Kinsey, Rachel Reynolds, Maryemma Shifflett, Mason Kinsey, Benjamin Moss, and Samuel Moss.

## A New Blessing

Taylor Poague Byer (member) & Luke Byer  
welcomed their second child,

**MATTHEW BEAU BYER**

born Sunday, June 1, 2025



Matthew weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 inches long. Mom, baby, and big brother, Case, are doing well at home. Maternal grandparents are Ronnie (member) & Wendy Poague. Maternal great-grandmother is Pam Key (member).

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**



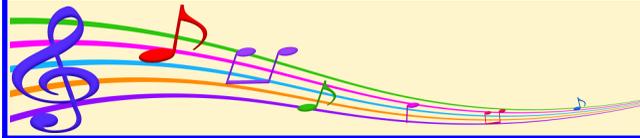
## In Appreciation

♥ **I would like to thank each of you who prayed for Madeline Wimer. Her MRI revealed a suitable method to alleviate her pain. God Bless you.**

**~ Dorothy Wimer**

♥ **Thank you so much for the cards, calls, prayers, and well wishes after my recent surgery. I appreciate the McAllister Church family immensely.**

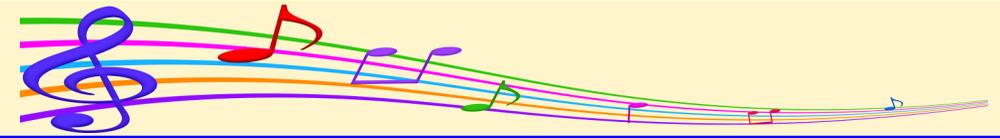
**~ Paul “Buzzy” Riley**



## Musical Minute

I came across a wonderful black and white photo in one of my home magazines the other day. It captured the very essence of summer and took me back to warm, sunny days spent at the camp my parents rented on the Jackson River for a number of years. The picture showed seven or eight teenagers jumping out of a grand, old tree leaning over a shady waterhole. There were several platforms built at varying heights around the tree trunk allowing the kids to jump simultaneously without crashing into one another mid-air. The photographer managed to catch each teen suspended against the sky. While their faces are hidden, I can imagine their expressions—exhilaration, fearlessness, unfettered freedom, and unfiltered joy. I can picture their beautiful, beaming countenances and wide, sparkling eyes shining through the sepia tones as though I saw them jump myself just this afternoon. That old tree, while covered in leaves, reminded me of a weathered, dead snag that used to hang over the river slightly north of and opposite our cabin on the Dunbrack Road side of the water. There was a great swimming hole on that side where many of the youngsters from Dunbrack Road spent their summer afternoons, and brother Nick and I would sometimes head across the river to swim when we saw kids we recognized. It was on my first visit to “the other side” that I saw that old snag up close. I was probably 10 or so at the time, and I’d watched the older kids shimmying up the snag and jumping into the river from far above all summer long. While seeing that snag up close was intimidating, I became convinced as the days passed that I was ready to take the plunge from what appeared to me to be a dizzying height. (I’m sure there are several at McAllister who spent a few summer days cooling off in this exact swimming hole. I’m prepared for you to set me straight on how low that snag actually hung over the water. To me it seemed gravity defying!)

I finally informed Nicky one afternoon that “today is the day.” I was prepared to make the climb and risk death. I’m not sure if he let mom know, but at some point she swam across the river and joined us to provide some motherly moral support for me and probably to gather up the pieces, literally or figuratively, if anything went wrong. There were several kids who stayed around to see me make my first jump from the snag, shouting support as I scooted up the length of the snag. As you may have already guessed, I wasn’t nearly as brave once I got out over the water as I had been on the riverbank below. I simply froze. I’m not even sure that I felt embarrassed. All I remember is being overcome by terror and realizing that I didn’t know how to climb down the snag backwards. The other children hung



around for a while, patiently continuing to shout encouragement, then finally begging me to “just jump,” and then gradually slipping away to go home to dinner since I appeared to be hopelessly stuck. (Plus, my stonelike presence was dominating the very feature that made the swimming hole so much fun. And I’m not exaggerating—I think this whole situation went on for more than an hour, at least.) The last memory I have is of looking down at the water and seeing mom and Nick treading water, both freezing and blue-lipped from the cold. Then I felt the shock of the cold water and heard whoops of joy and congratulations coming from mom and Nick. They were so proud (and more than ready to return to our side of the river!). Mom asked me through chattering teeth, “What made you brave enough to jump, Bethie?” I couldn’t really answer her. In fact, I was myself puzzled at how I ended up in the water. But I knew for a fact that I hadn’t made a “decision” to jump. In the end, I believe to this day that I wound up in the water at the end of that endless afternoon simply because I fell asleep and in turn fell out of the snag. I’ve long wondered if there was a lesson to be learned from this incident . . .

I’ve been told that it’s always good to sleep on big decisions, but I don’t think that means you should already be stuck up a tree before you decide to take a nap. Maybe the lesson is that we shouldn’t tackle big projects before we’ve considered all of the potential outcomes. But if that were the case, no one would ever tackle anything new. Maybe the lesson is that we should listen to our inner, insistent voice that tells us we’re not yet prepared for something, but that sort of leads back to the same conclusion. No one would ever, ever experience anything noteworthy if we all waited until we felt completely prepared.

I think the lesson here is this: When you decide to take big steps, it’s nice to have a support network around—maybe not right beside you (You’ve gotta take some first steps on your own, right?), but some folks who care about you, folks there to cheer you on the way, pat you on the back when you succeed, help you pick up the pieces if you fail, and most importantly, keep you from drowning if you fall asleep in a dead tree hanging over moving water and inadvertently fall in! Have a wonderful summer and remember: Don’t swim solo!

*Beth*