

# McAllister Messenger

AUGUST 2025

## A Word From Your Pastor “*The Food Pantry Needs Your Help*”

*Every Thursday morning, a group of people gathers in the basement of the church. Are they here for a prayer meeting? Or perhaps a Bible study? No, they are here to give out food to people in need in our community. They are the volunteers who run the COPE Food Pantry.*

*This group of volunteers braves the cold in the winter and the heat in the summer. They push carts of groceries from the basement up the hill to the street, and load them into the cars of the people who are receiving the food. We are very grateful for the work that this team of volunteers does. They really step up and answer the call given in Matthew 25 to give food to the hungry, something to drink to the thirsty, welcome to a stranger, clothing to the naked, and a visit to those in prison.*

*At this time, the Food Pantry needs for all of us to step up and answer this call. Lately, demand for food has increased, as has the cost of that food. Because of changes in the way the government helps the needy, the Food Pantry is finding its shelves are being depleted. And it is finding it more expensive to restock those shelves.*

*Please consider making the COPE Food Pantry part of your regular charitable giving. You can place a check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, with the Memo line “COPE Food Pantry.” Or, you can mail a check to the church. In addition to donations, the Food Pantry can always use more volunteers. The volunteers gather at 8:15 on Thursday mornings in the church basement. Please consider giving of your time and your resources to this very important ministry.*



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



SEPT. 2025  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:  
Friday,  
August 15th

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

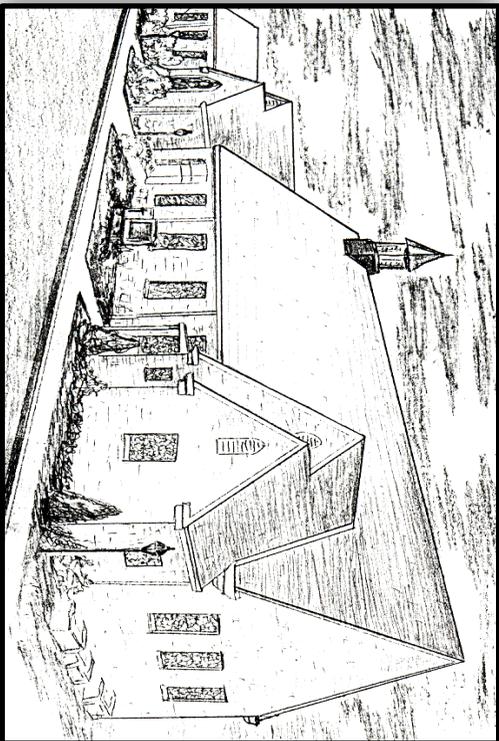


**McAllister Memorial  
Presbyterian Church**  
(540) 962-2675

admin@mcallistermempcusa.org  
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

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

online giving link:





Operation Christmas Child - 2025

**\*\*\*THIS THANK YOU LETTER  
 WAS RECEIVED BY  
 MCALLISTER CHURCH.**

**WESTERN VA TEAM:**

AREA COORDINATOR:  
 Laurie Fitzgerald

CHURCH RELATIONS:  
 Tammy Lawhorn  
 Cindy Markham  
 Rose Welch  
 Kathy Dudding

STUDENT RELATIONS:  
 Tabettha Wyatt

PRAYER:  
 Susan Fey  
 Teresa Gleason

CENTRAL DROP OFF:  
 Glenn Saunders  
 Katie Saunders

DROP OFF LEADERS:  
 Jon Fitzgerald  
 Julie Welch  
 Tammy Lawhorn  
 JoEllen Crawford  
 Shirley Hall  
 Donna Lucas

Dear Ministry Partner:

The local Operation Christmas Child Area Team would like to thank you for your partnership in sharing God's love with children around the world by continuing to pack shoeboxes!

Please join with us in praising God for a new record of 11,927,439 shoebox gifts collected worldwide in 2024, with 10,574,805 of those collected in the United States, the most that have ever been packed and donated nationwide. In addition, 512,231 shoeboxes were built on line (BASBO) in the United States in 2024.

Through your continued partnership in OCC--14,436 of those shoeboxes were collected from the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, and the cities of Roanoke and Salem. **THANK YOU!**

As you know, each of those 11,927,439 shoeboxes represents a child and a Gospel opportunity made possible through your partnership in this ministry. We just learned from an OCC ministry update, approximately 76% of the children who enrolled in The Greatest Journey in 2024 remained in the program, completing the 12-step discipleship program and graduating. This is the highest percentage ever to complete the program. It is estimated that most of those children will go on to share the Gospel with 4 friends and family members. Evangelism, Discipleship, Multiplication! This is made possible through your faithful partnership. **WE PRAISE GOD FOR YOU!**

Please join with us in praying, asking God to continue to open the hearts of these children and their families to receive the Gospel in faith. Please also pray for the Ministry Partners who will be leading outreach events and teaching discipleship classes throughout the year.

We eagerly anticipate seeing how God will advance His Kingdom through these shoebox gifts this year. It is a privilege to serve alongside you in this ministry. **Please put November 17-24, 2025 on your calendar for shoebox collection week!**

*"<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28: 18-20 NKJV)*

Again, THANK YOU for your partnership in sharing God's love with children around the world through Operation Christmas Child!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Church Relations Team!

In Christ,

**Western Virginia Area Operation Christmas Child Team**

Church Relations Team:

Tammy Lawhorn  
 Church Relations, Coord.  
 (540)491-3995

Cindy Markham  
 Church Relations  
 (540)354-9950

Rosie Welch  
 Church Relations  
 (540)864-5725

Kathy Dudding  
 Church Relations  
 (540)588-9627

## 2 Cents a Meal: April Cycle 2025

Made possible by 47\* contributing congregations

Amherst	Forest	New Concord	Saint Andrew
Appomattox Court House	Gethsemane	New Dublin	Salem
Bedford	Kentuck	New Store	First South Boston
Blacksburg	Lynchburg, First	Oak Level	Trinity Ecumenical
Bluemont	Madisonville	Old Brick	New Canton Trinity
Chatham	Martinsville, First	Old Concord	Unity
College	Massies Mill	Peaks	Villamont
Covington, First	Maysville	First Pulaski	Westminster
Cumberland	McAllister Memorial	Quaker Memorial	Williamson Memorial
Diamond Hill	Mercy Seat	Radford	*Presbyterian Women
Fairlawn	Mizpah	Raleigh Court	
Fincastle	Montvale	Roanoke Valley	

### LOCAL

Bedford Christian Ministries Bedford  
 Presbyterian Church  
 Bobcat Backpack Program Presbyterian Church of  
 Radford  
 FACES Food Pantry College Church  
 Food for Kids Villamont  
 Giles County Christian Service Mission  
 Pearisburg  
 Grace Network Forest Hill  
 Highland Park Learning Center Second, Roanoke  
 Hunger Mission Group Raleigh Court  
 Lake Christian Ministries Trinity Ecumenical  
 Ministries  
 Lynchburg Daily Bread First, Lynchburg

### Northern Pittsylvania County Food Center

Chatham  
 Northside Presbyterian Church Monday Supper  
 Northside  
 Presbyterian Community Center Second,  
 Roanoke  
 Pulaski Daily Bread Pulaski  
 Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM House) Second,  
 Roanoke  
 Salem Area Ecumenical Ministries ACT Salem  
 Salem Food Pantry Salem  
 Saturday Lunch Ministry First, Danville  
 The Shepherd's Table Bedford  
 The Giving Garden Colonial  
 The Urban Farm at God's Storehouse Unity

### REGIONAL, NATIONAL, and INTERNATIONAL

Cool Spring Leper Ministries (Uganda) Cool Spring Presbyterian Church  
 Feeding Southwest Virginia Second, Roanoke  
 Peacework (Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe) Pearisburg  
 Roanoke Valley Medical Mission (Guatemala) Covenant  
 Namulesca Evangel Rescuing Church (Uganda) Cool Spring  
 Society of Saint Andrew Bedford  
 Persecution Project Foundation (South Sudan) First, South Boston



## NEXT SESSION MEETING

**AUGUST 17, 2025**  
 immediately after worship



PRESBYTERIAN  
 WOMEN

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday monthly, 5:30 (August TBD)

Circle 4: 2nd Wednesday monthly, noon



Jackson River Sports Complex – Saturday, August 2, 2025  
 Opening ceremonies begin at 6:00 p.m.  
 The luminaria ceremony will begin at 9:00 p.m.

McAllister Church is supporting this year's event by donating the proceeds from numerous fundraisers. We are also assembling a team to participate in the walk. You may sign up to be a team member by calling the church at 540-962-2675.

Diane Hicks is our team captain. Our team also be hosting a bake sale at our tent—any baked good donations would be appreciated.

We are grateful for any monetary donations as well. Please

## CHURCH LUNCHEON & POOL PARTY

Sunday, August 3

Luncheon will be held after worship in the fellowship hall. Chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The pool party will be at the Covington City Pool at 6:30 p.m.

*The Children's Presbyterian Home is hosting a CLOTHES CLOSET  
 AUGUST 14th—11AM to 1PM*

*McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall*

*This event is open to the public so everyone is welcome.*

*Any questions can be directed to Brenda Linkenhoker at 540-969-6909.*

## Prayer Concerns

Austin Adams	Ron Blevins	Allan Broughman	Bill Bennett
Dallas Bates	Teresa Carter	Devin Burks	Joyce Clark
Luke Crawford	Donna & Marshall Fox	Andy Dreszer	Jared Craft
Amy Gurd	Lisa Hoke	Susie Ennis	Malcolm Crush
Mason Hale	Cassie Downer Johnson	Benny Geiser	Aiden Downer
Kathy Pritt	Valerie Rogers	Eric Hayslett	Amelia Dressler
Brenda & Van Walker	Logan Walton	Larry Hicks	Lonnie Phillips
Donna Walker	Butch Curtin Family	Diane Lambert	Susan Terrell
Our Country	Andy Dreszer Family	Curt Lowry	Ethan Thompson
Our World	Falling Spring area: flooding damage	Zach Milton	Greg Vess
	Kerr County TX: victims and family, first responders, rescuers	Bert, Nancy Seay	Young man newly diag. w/ cancer
		Donny Wolfe	Our Country
		Amanda Taylor	Our World
		Family (fire)	

## Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson, Rosa Lee Bartley (room #500)  
SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays  
CARRINGTON PLACE: B.A. Rupert, Jr.  
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

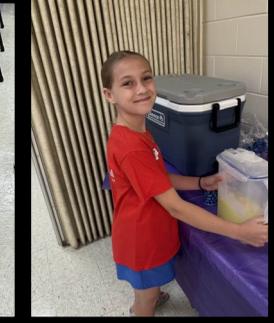
THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell  
BRIDGEWATER HOME: Jean Broughman



## Constant Need

Midge Akers, Jerry Ballengee, Dennis Brinkley, Edgar Brinkley, Jimmy Brown, Linda Caldwell, Sandra Capps, Harry & Jean Casey, Joyce Clark, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Renee Y. Gann, Don Hampton, Cory Harrison, Emma Hartless, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Rob Honts, Janet Hubble, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Bebe Marshall, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Carrie Paxton, Denise Pillow, Clayton Plecker, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Mary Rice, James Rice, Angie Sponaugle, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Greg Vess, Gwen Wolfe, Jerry Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe. Rider Yeagley. President Joe Biden. Non-believers. Our Church, Unspoken Prayers, Local First Responders, Our Nation, Our Troops & Government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East.





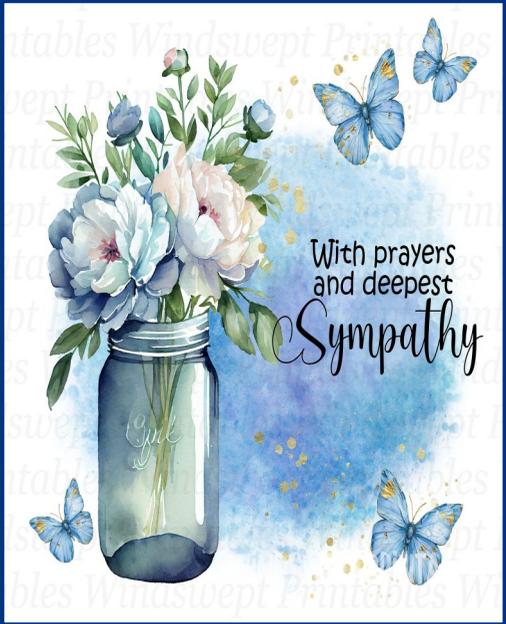
## Deaths

*Charles "Butch" Curtin  
 George C. Dreszer  
 Aaron Q. Albrecht  
 Rita Sue Blankenship  
 W. "Lance" Carson, Jr.  
 Laura M. Casto  
 R.D. "Dewey" Davis, Sr.  
 Perry A. Day, Jr.  
 Wayne Douglas  
 Linda Jean Dressler  
 Bernie A. Drummond  
 Alton L. Elmore  
 Thomas S. Fridley  
 Charles L. Gibson  
 Doris Hagedon  
 Barbara B. Heighter  
 Wayne Hiner  
 M. "Mike" Humphries*



*R. "Rick" Jessee  
 Geneva S. Jones  
 Leslie Allen Lawson  
 Keith O. McCoy  
 Rosemary N. Nicely  
 Sidney "Sid" Nicely  
 Rita Brewster Nida  
 Ann Reynolds  
 Danny L. Rowsey  
 Gary S. Scruggs  
 Edward L. Simmons  
 Rachel Ann Simmons  
 J. David "Jim" Sortore  
 Michael "Pat" Smith  
 Rebecca Stancil  
 Helen Stinespring  
 Algie Rayvon Tate  
 Brandon J. Taylor*

## With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and sincerest condolences to:

- ✝ Norma Curtin (member), Janie Tyree, and family on the loss of their husband and father, Charles "Butch" Curtin (member).
- ✝ Andy Dreszer and family on the loss of his younger brother, George C. Dreszer.
- ✝ Anyone having recently experienced a loss.



# Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Relay For Life Spaghetti Dinner on July 11. We had a good time, and raised a lot of money for a good cause.
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped out with the dinners for the funerals for Carole Lemon and Butch Curtin. The meals that we provide for families is a great ministry that our church does.
- ◆ Relay for Life is Saturday, August 2 at the Jackson River Sports Complex. Opening ceremonies begin at 6:00 pm.

Please join us at the McAllister tent for an evening of fun that supports a great cause.

- ◆ The annual McAllister Church lunch and pool party is slated for Sunday, August 3. The lunch will immediately follow worship in the fellowship hall. The pool party will be from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Covington City Pool. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us!
- ◆ Session will meet on Sunday, August 17 immediately after worship.
- ◆ The children and youth will have their "Back to School Ice Cream Party" on Sunday, August 31. We will gather immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a fun and fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

AVERAGE JULY 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

52



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McAllister Church held our annual Vacation Bible School June 22-26 this year. Our theme was "ROAD TRIP—On the Go with God". A big thank you goes out to all of our volunteers. It takes a strong team to make VBS go including greeters, teachers, kitchen helpers, sponsors, and more. Most importantly, the children, who we appreciate most of all. They came excited and eager to learn. It was a great week.



**2025 Vacation Bible School Sponsors**

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Andy & Beth Dreszer      | Richard and Priscilla Downer |
| Wanda Gilbert            | Pam Key                      |
| Gary Rice                | Brenda & Van Walker          |
| Gary & Diane Walker      | Lee Ann Poague               |
| Marshall & Donna Fox     | Amanda Webb                  |
| Anonymous x 5, cash \$   | Howard & Pam Poague          |
| Debbie & Danny Rodgers   | Patty Anderson               |
| Bobby & Anita Rice       | Gina & Harry Tingler         |
| Buzzy Riley              | Harry & Jean Casey           |
| Danny & Rhoda Hill       | Paula Stull                  |
| Clyde Landis             | Chuck & Jean Bartley         |
| Larry Washburn           | Doris & Bucky Mottern        |
| Amy Hoover               | Pat & Joe Martin             |
| Leslie Nicely            | Jim an"d Marlene Faidley     |
| Betty Gibson             | June & Ricky Cooke           |
| Susan Sponaugle          | Julie McCormack              |
| Jerry and Lynn Whitehead |                              |

**CONGRATULATIONS**



The McAllister Church Family wishes you much happiness and that God may bless your unions and fill your lives with love, joy, and peace.

*Katie (Riley) & Cody Long  
June 30, 2025*

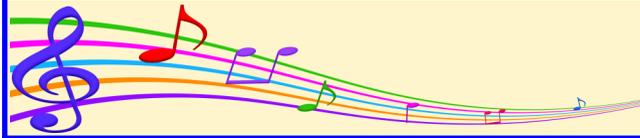
*Katie is a member of McAllister Church. She is the daughter of Paul Riley and the late Libby Riley.*



*Lisa (Pritt) & Andrew Crawford  
July 7, 2025*

*Andrew is a member of McAllister Church. He is the son of the late Linda G. Bogar and the nephew of Debbie Rodgers.*





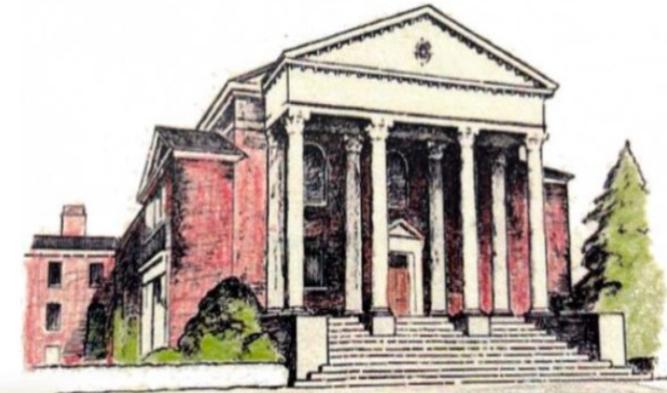
## Musical Minute

*I guess it's the nature of my work at McAllister that I have a playlist of hymns constantly streaming through my head. A golden oldie came to mind when I finally got out to the garden after the recent rains and saw the veggies beginning to flourish, along with a seemingly insurmountable tangle of weeds. I hope you'll not consider it sacrilege, but as we approach the height of summer and the garden finally gets down to business, I've modified the lyrics to this treasured tune to suit my current circumstances.*

*I sing because I'm happy.  
I sing because I'm free!  
His eye is on the sparrow,  
But He doesn't weed for me!*

*Nor should He. He gave me the garden. It's up to me to tend it! So that's where you'll find me during the coming steamy weeks of August—out in the garden tending our little piece of Eden (albeit with ground-hogs, this year . . .). And if you're out in your garden this month, make sure you look to the sky on the evening of August ninth to take in the beauty of the Full Sturgeon Moon.*

*Beth*



### First Presbyterian Church

The Congregation of  
First Presbyterian Church  
Invite you to the  
Commissioning Service of  
Linda G. Trumbo  
as Commissioned Pastor of  
First Presbyterian Church,

At 4:00 P. M.

on Sunday, August 24, 2025

185 N. Maple Ave. ~ Covington, VA 24426

Reception following in the Chapel.

