

McAllister Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2025

A Word From Your Pastor “*Questions Jesus Asked*”

If you could ask Jesus any question, what would it be? What is heaven like? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? Why did you have to die on the cross for our sins to be forgiven? These are just a few of the many questions we might have for our Lord and Savior.

Our next Wednesday night Bible study series takes this idea of asking Jesus questions, and turns it upside down. It focuses on the questions Jesus asks us. Here is what it says on the book jacket:

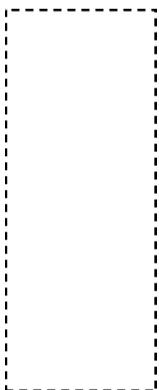
*“We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? In *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.”*

For our first session, we will look at the introduction to the book. For each of the following sessions, we explore half of a chapter. This will give us thirteen weeks for the entire study, which will take us right up to Thanksgiving. Please join us each Wednesday evening this fall at 6:00 pm, beginning on September 3. If you have not been coming to Bible study, but would like to start, this would be the ideal time.

If you would like to participate, please let Rev. Moss know (434-738-8841), and he can order you a book. We hope to see you on Wednesday evenings for a fun and informative time!

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

Hello,
September!



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

OCT. 2025
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Friday,
September 12th

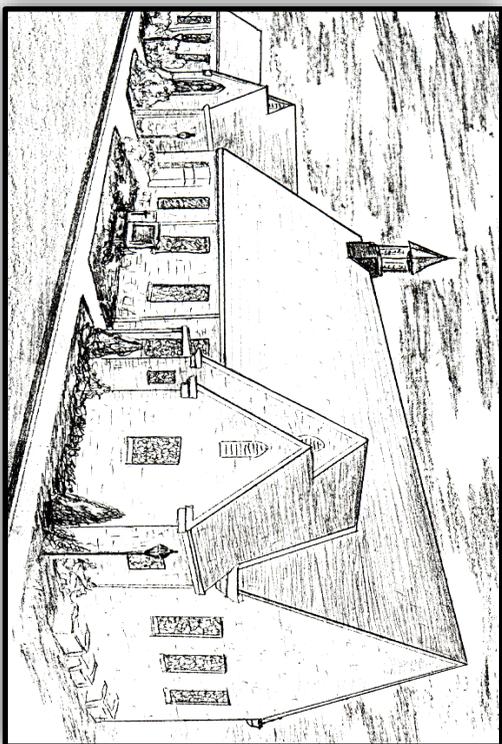


**McAllister Memorial
Presbyterian Church**
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online giving link:

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



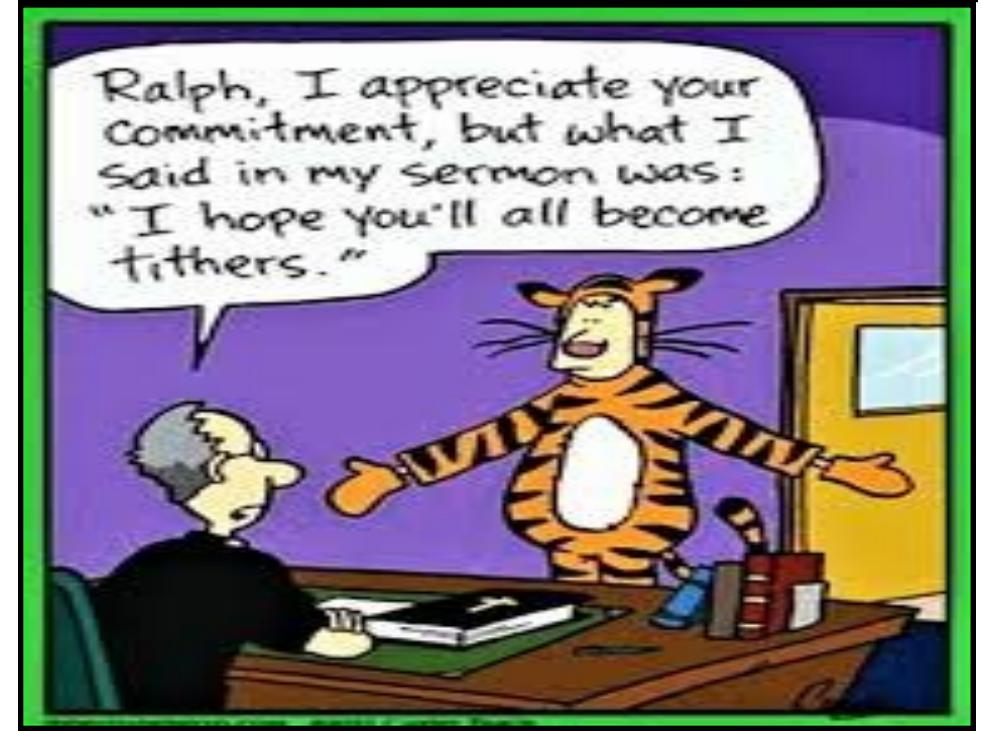
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

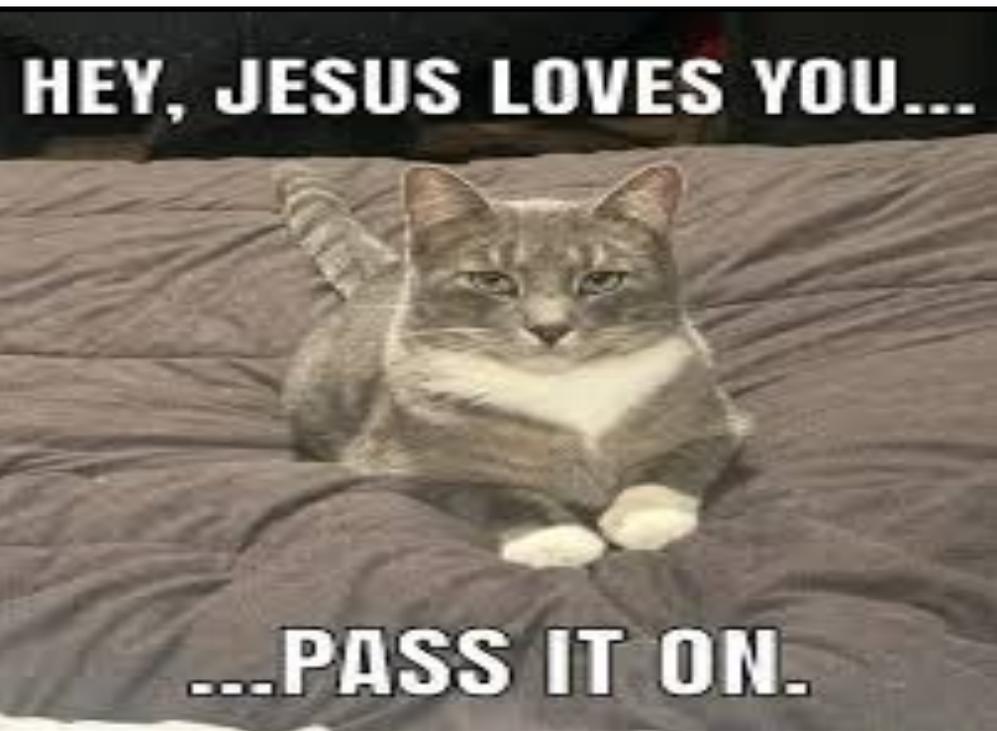


- 4—Eric Hayslett
- 5—Burnette Crawford
- 6—Shelby Rock
- 7—Brenda Linkenhoker
Benjamin Moss
Rylee Plott
- 8—Callie Uzzell
- 10—Carol Fleenor
Lennox Webb
- 11—Priscilla Downer
Darrell Tucker
- 12—Donna Cadd Craft
- 13—Kenzie Cline
Deanna S. D' Arpa
- 15—Adam Baker
- 19—Karen Arahovites
- 20—Wendy Poague
Shane Reid
- 21—Conner Patterson
- 22—Stephen Carper
- 24—Greyson Young
- 25—David Rodgers
- 26—Ashtyn Bishop
- 27—Charlotte Baker
Samuel Moss
- 28—Krist Walker
- 29—Emilee Givens
Nathan Hale



- 4—Garlynda & Grady Haynes
Paul & Brenda Linkenhoker
- 7—Chris & Sharon Rice
- 10—Brittany & Adam Baker
- 11—Matt & Lisa Sponaugle
- 12—Mike & Brigette Young
- 18—Taylor & Luke Byer
- 19—Heather & Chris Johnson
- 20—Craig & Angie Poague
- 21—Robbie & Melinda Weikle
- 30—Linda & H.L. Wickham





NEXT SESSION MEETING
September 21, 2025
immediately after worship



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):
Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday each month (5:30)
Circle 4*: 2nd Wednesday each month (noon)
**Circle 4 going to Food & Friends for Sept. 10 meeting*



ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES
Sept 9th at 3:00 p.m.
All are welcome. Even if you've never sung before or haven't sung in years, we would love to have you give us a try! We start on time and typically run a little longer than an hour. We've got some wonderful new anthems this fall and some golden oldies, as well. Please consider joining us in song!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SEPTEMBER 3rd AT 6 PM - JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY!

HANDBELL PRACTICE SEPT. 4th @ 1:30PM
 Held each Thursday – We need players! You do not have to know how to read music!



****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.mcallisternemcusa.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.*

Prayer Concerns

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Bob & Leta Bartley Kelly Cole Ricky Cooke Larry Deacon Jenni Hinton Craig Robbins Jill Shifflett Angie Sponaugle Linda Wickham Wrenley Young Lake Moomaw boating accident victims | Bobby & Janet Baker Dot Lowry Mildred McCabe Milton McGrady Wayne, Arlene Perry Thomas Riley Leslie Vaughters Dreama, Mike Wade Lynn Wolfe Sandra Wood Ruth J. Caul Family Those in path of Hurricane Erin | Bill Bennett Ronnie Blevins Amy Mottern Hayes Pam Kern Christine Lopez John Reynolds Jackie Stone Kevin Wright Students, teachers, school personnel, and parents Our Country Our World | Jonathan Brackman Vickie Breavess Devin Burks Addison Culbert Cindy Durham Donna Fox Buzzy Hoke Clyde Landis, Jr. Sandy Persinger Amy Poe Greg Vess Greg Woodson Carol Sayre Family |
|---|--|--|---|

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson, Rosa Lee Bartley (room #500)

SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays

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, 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.

Embracing His Presence Ladies Conference

“My heart says of you, “seek his face!” Your face,
Lord, I will seek.” Psalm 27:8

Friday 26th

Worship: Valerie Tuttle &
worship team
Ministering: Valerie Tuttle

September 26-27 2025

Friday 5 PM-Saturday 2
PM

Saturday 27th

Worship: Hope Rhea &
Worship team
Ministering: Celeste Frias

Cornerstone Church
1262 S Lexington Avenue,
Covington, VA



Valerie Tuttle
New Beginnings
Worship Center



Celeste Frias
Heart of Worship
Ministries-
Appomattox

From July 4th to 5th, heavy rainfall resulted in catastrophic flash flooding in the Hill Country area in central Texas. The sudden floods resulted in more than 100 lives lost and search and rescue is still ongoing.

PDA is in communication with the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Disaster Network and Mission Presbytery to coordinate a response and assess the needs, including Emotional and Spiritual Care.

If you wish to donate, please make checks payable to Presbytery of the Peaks including the designation number DR000191 (U.S. Flooding).

Please join in praying for those affected:

Good and Gracious God,

We come before you with humble hearts, overwhelmed by the catastrophic floods in parts of our Mission Presbytery and beyond.

We thank you for the lives saved in the midst of this devastation.

We grieve with those who have lost their loved ones. Comfort and console them, O God!

We pray for those who have lost their homes, businesses, and cherished belongings. Hear our prayers, O Lord!

As the community prepares to rebuild, we pray for strength and resilience. Grant us all a generous heart, so that we may rally the resources needed to rebuild our flooded communities.

We trust in your faithfulness, dear God, even in the midst of devastation.

Bless all who work for relief and restoration. And may your peace, which passes understanding, guard the hearts and minds of those who suffer.

May our response reflect your love for all people and all creation, and thus bring honor and glory to your holy name.

We pray all these in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord! Amen!

Deaths

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Johnny Carter</i> | <i>Steven M. Ahlbrand</i> | <i>Geraldine Howell</i> | <i>Shane S. Crider</i> |
| <i>"Squeaky" Hardesty</i> | <i>Ruby M. Biggs</i> | <i>Marvel Johnson</i> | <i>D. "Nancy" Higgins</i> |
| <i>Richard P. Lilly</i> | <i>Dorothy D. Black</i> | <i>E. "Bobby" Knick</i> | <i>P. "Patty" Nicely</i> |
| <i>Nathan A. Mays</i> | <i>William Dawson, Sr.</i> | <i>W. "Bill" Kouns, Jr.</i> | <i>C. "Connie" Oliver</i> |
| <i>Warren F. Richmond</i> | <i>Joyce Kersey Hazen</i> | <i>Melissa L. Mattox</i> | <i>K. "Kathy" Pritt</i> |
| <i>Carol Sayre</i> | <i>Helen Mary Renar</i> | <i>Aneita A. Roberts</i> | <i>W. "Willie" Ramos</i> |
| <i>Herbert W. Taylor</i> | <i>Peggy "Penny" Wells</i> | <i>Barbaree H. Wilson</i> | <i>"Joy" B. Weeks</i> |
| <i>James "Hooch" White</i> | <i>H. "Dusti" Woodward</i> | | |

Gifts in Memoriam

In Loving Memory of Charles "Butch" Curtin by:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| † Jim, Marlene, Byron Faidley | † Marshall & Donna Fox | † Paul Riley |
| † Maria Neolau | † Gary & Diane Walker | † Shirley Nida |
| † Debbie & Danny Rodgers | † Lee Ann Poague | † Kathleen Loan |
| † Darlene Thomas | † Bob & Leta Bartley | |
| † Kathy & Robert Campbell | † Amy & James Hoover | |
| † Howard & Pam Poague | † Harry & Jean Caszy | |
| † Dave & Beverly Paek | † Al & Cindy Durham | |
| † Danny & Rhoda Hill | † Dorothy Wimer | |

In Loving Memory of George C. Dreszer (Andy Dreszer's brother) by:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| † Marshall & Donna Fox | † Danny & Rhoda Hill | † Paul Riley |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|

In Loving Memory of Carol Lemon by: † Danny & Rhoda Hill

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and sincerest condolences to:

- † Danny & Debbie Rodgers (members) on the loss of Danny's cousin, Wayne Hiner.
- † Sandy Sayre (Dorothy Wimer's daughter) on the loss of her mother-in-law, Carol Sayre.
- † Anyone having recently experienced a loss.

Annual McAllister Church Pool Party: 8/3/25

Notes From Pastor Jim



- ◆ Thank you to everyone who supported our Relay For Life team and event at AET. What a wonderful cause and support system we have at McAllister Church!
- ◆ Thanks to all who came out for, helped with and brought a dish to our annual luncheon after church on Sunday, August 3rd this year. The food and fellowship was wonderful as usual. The children had such a good time swimming that evening at the Covington City Pool despite the cooler than usual temperature.
- ◆ The youth and children will be having a back-to-school party on Sunday, August 31. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for lunch. Then, we will go outside for some Slip-n-Slide fun, before heading back inside for ice cream sundaes. Bring a bathing suit and a towel. Please join us and bring a friend!

- ◆ We will be gathering with the other area Presbyterian Churches for a potluck supper on Sunday, September 14 at Mallow Presbyterian at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a side dish to share. We will host a meal on October 12th after worship.
- ◆ Wednesday night Bible study will resume on September 3 at 6:00. We will be studying the book "Questions Jesus Asks." It will explore six questions Jesus asked in the Gospels, and how they challenge us to grow in our faith. Please call me (434-738-8841) if you would like me to order you a book.
- ◆ Handbell practice will resume Thursday, September 4 at 1:30. We need players!
- ◆ Choir practice will resume Tuesday, September 9 at 3:00. If you've been thinking about joining the choir, this would be a great time!

AVERAGE AUGUST 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:



McAllister Church supports 2025 Relay For Life 2025



Diane Hicks took the reins again as captain of our McAllister Church Relay for Life team for the 2025 campaign. From late Spring through early August, she and her team worked tirelessly to head up fundraisers and events that would support their mission of providing support in the battle against the evil menace known as cancer.

There were three separate dinner fundraisers at both local Michael's Pizzeria locations. Their biggest effort was a spaghetti dinner and silent auction in the fellowship hall of McAllister Church in July. They sold raffle baskets for various themed gift baskets. Luminarias were sold in honor or memory of loved ones and they also collected canned goods to weigh the luminaria bags down which were later donated to food pantries.

The Relay for Life event itself took place on Saturday, August 3rd at Jackson River Sports Complex. The McAllister Team set up their tent and continued to pour their hard work and devotion to such a worthy cause by hosting a baked sale at their tent. Team members walked laps at the event and sold their baked goods.

When the final totals from our McAllister Team and the local American Cancer Society Relay for Life event are available, we will certainly be excited to report them.

Diane and her team are so grateful to each and everyone who helped make this year's campaign another success in the fight against cancer. So many helped in various manners including attending fundraiser nights at Michael's Pizzeria, donating items for gift baskets, purchasing raffle tickets, providing ingredients for the spaghetti dinner, buying spaghetti dinners, donating items to our silent auction, bidding on auction items, buying luminarias, donating canned goods, volunteering to work our spaghetti supper night & auction, providing baked goods, walking on our team, making a monetary donation, and so much more! They sincerely appreciate each and every gesture of support, kindness, and love shown and simply **COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU ALL!**

CONGRATULATIONS

♥ Congratulations to Linda Trumbo who was installed as the Commissioned Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Covington on August 24th.

♥ Proud great-grandmother, Dorothy Wimer, would like to announce the birth of her great grand-daughter, Juliet Elaine Pritts, on 7/24/25.

She weighed 9 lbs., 6 oz. and was 23 inches long.

Anna Pritt is her proud mother and Sandy Sayre, doting maternal grandmother.

APPRECIATION

Dear Friends and Members of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,

I would like to sincerely thank you for the thoughtful card and expressions of sympathy following the passing on July 7th of my younger brother, George. Your kindness and support has brought much-needed comfort to me and to Beth.

Your well wishes following my hip surgery are also much appreciated. Special thanks to Gina Tingler and Lee Ann Poague for manning the livestreaming in my absence.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Andy Dreszer

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,

It is a blessing to be a member of this church. I want to thank Rev. Moss for the great mediation service, Beth for the beautiful music, Stephanie Clark for the amazing solo, women and men of the church for the delicious meal, those who attended Butch's service, those who sent cards, phone calls, flowers and food, or if you just thought of us during this difficult time. We thank you!

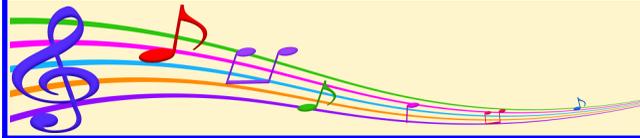
Sending love, hugs, and prayers,

The Curtin Family

My heartfelt thanks go to so many for the prayers, visits, goodies, phone calls, and cards but most of all for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Our McAllister Church Family and Pastor Jim are the best. God Bless each one of you.

In Christian Love,

Donna Fox



Musical Minute

By the time you're holding this newsletter in your hands, I will have already celebrated my 60th birthday in late August. What a mind-boggling milestone for me! I'm not complaining, mind you, I'm just slightly stunned that my "first" sixty years have ripped along at such a breakneck pace. I decided almost forty years ago when Dad passed suddenly at the too-young age of 51 that I would never lament my birthdays, but instead celebrate each one for the gift that it is. No black balloons for me! This year was no exception, but I confess that I have been more reflective in the lead up to my birthday this time around. With Andy's younger brother, George, passing unexpectedly in early July, his youngest brother Mark's ordeal with kidney cancer, my brother Nick's cancer scare over the last year, Andy's surgeries this year, and my "friend of longest standing" Lisa's triumph over cervical cancer after many, many daunting months, the realization that our time on this marvelous orb is limited has hit me with alarming precision and "oomph." And so, I've been thinking . . . (Dangerous, I know.) But if you'd be so kind as to indulge me, I thought I'd share with you a few of my musings to come out of the last 55 years or so, and a couple of additional ones from just the last year. I'm sure I'm not telling you anything that you don't already know, but here goes.

My lifetime, thus far, has taught me . . .

By Beth

Being born to loving parents is a truly exceptional gift—one to be cherished, and one that lays the foundation for a lifetime of other loving, trusting relationships.

Having an extraordinary sibling (or two, or even five or more, I would imagine) is the gift your family gives you that keeps on giving. And if you're particularly lucky, as I have been, your sibling will partner up with someone equally extraordinary, who will enhance your life even more.

The Girl Scout campfire song about friends is ever so true:

"Make new friends, but keep the old.

The one is silver, the other gold . . .

You have one hand. I have the other.

Put them together. We have each other . . ."

(All friends are gold, in my opinion, especially mine. I won't name names, but I hope that you know who you are.)



Your church family, if you're blessed to have one, IS your family. Full stop . . . (We love you, McAllister family. There are simply not enough words of thanks and appreciation for how you care for us and for one another.)

And from just the last year, here are my main takeaways:

The worst thing about surgery is attempting to escape from the hospital after it is done. Sigh . . .

I have the best choir ever in the history of choirs. Your dedication to your church is remarkable. Your support of me is unparalleled. You bolster me up at every turn, you tickle me, you are a true joy in my life and my heart.

All pre-marital counseling, whether secular or in the church, should include a unit on compression stockings. If you can't manage to put them on your partner or you don't have the patience to allow your partner to put them on you, the union should not proceed. (I'm speaking from experience here.) Just saying . . .

I married a wonderful man, the one that is perfect just for me. I'll (attempt) to put compression hose on him any day of the week! (I love you, precious Andrew. Laughing and getting silly with you makes my heart happy. So glad you're feeling better.)

And there concludes my . . . let's be positive, and call it wisdom, shall we?! I hope to get back with you in another twenty years or so to share what else I've gleaned along the way. And one more thing—I love autumn! Happy September to all of you.

Beth