

McAllister Messenger

NOVEMBER 2025

A Word From Your Pastor: “Waiting for Advent”

When I was in high school, I ran on the track and cross country teams. Each race I competed in was a test of endurance. As we raced, we would fight against tired legs and burning lungs. The winner of each race was not necessarily the one who could run the fastest. The winner was always the one who kept a steady pace, the one whose legs and lungs didn't tire as much as those of the other runners.

Our lives are like a track or cross country race. We run through all the ups and downs, trying not to lose strength or get too tired. Fortunately, we are given something that keeps our energy up as we negotiate our way through all these trials and tribulations. This gift comes from God. God is with us as we race through life, giving us the strength and the endurance we need to make it through.

The prophet Isaiah talks about this sustaining power of God. In Isaiah 40:13, we read the following: “Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

The key to this verse is found in its first five words – “Those who wait for the Lord.” The gift of God's strength doesn't go to the fastest. It goes to those who wait for the Lord, to those who have endurance. But waiting can be difficult, especially when our legs are sore and our lungs are burning. When the burdens of life are weighing us down, it's not easy to know that the Lord is coming.

In the church, we have a season that is dedicated to waiting for the Lord. This season is called Advent, and it starts on November 30 and runs through Christmas Eve. It is a time that we sing songs of anticipation, read Scriptures of prophecy, and dedicate ourselves to prayer. It is a time that we wait anxiously for the Lord to come, for his strength to come upon us in the form of a little child. And when the strength of the Lord finally does come upon us, we will rejoice in his gifts of hope and peace.

So I invite you to join me as we wait for this time of waiting. Let us wait for the Lord. May the knowledge that he is coming give us strength for all the races that we must run.



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

We are thankful for you:



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 E. "Jim" Moss
Cell phone: 434-738-8841
revjimmos95@gmail.com

online giving link:





- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3—Christie Kinsey, Janie Tyree | 18—Teagan Law, Shannon |
| 5—Taylor Poague Byer | Rodgers, Sawyer Young |
| 6—Adalynn Johnson, Pat Martin | 21—Kevin Bennett, Jared |
| 7—Harry Casey | Downer, Kayleigh Hicks |
| 8—Chris Caul | 22—Bucky Mottern |
| 10—Becky Hayslett | Hayleigh Young |
| 11—Justin Nicely | 23—Garlynda Haynes |
| 12—Frank Reyns | 26—Kelly Patterson |
| 13—Donna Craft Walker | Lillianna Reynolds |
| 17—Jamie Bryant | 28—Brenna Johnson |



- 8—Patrick & Jessica Scruggs
- 10—Mark & Shirley Thompson
- 11—Tammy S. & Kenny Duncan
- 18—Derek & Lizzie Gibson
- 28—Jerry & Darlene Taylor



Boy Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A "WOW" ITEM

- Small backpack
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Hobby kit
- Large toy truck or car
- Other large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Toy cars
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Soap
- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knives, saws, or razor blades

Wondering if an item will fit in an Operation Christmas Child preprinted shoebox?

Cardboard dimensions: 12 x 7 x 4.38 inches
Plastic dimensions: 13 x 7.5 x 4.7 inches

For more shoebox packing suggestions, the latest resources, and Follow Your Box labels, visit samaritanspur.org/occ

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.



Girl Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A "WOW" ITEM

- Small backpack or purse
- Doll
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Jewelry making or hobby kit
- Large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Costume jewelry
- Hair accessories
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Finger puppets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Soap
- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knives, saws, or razor blades

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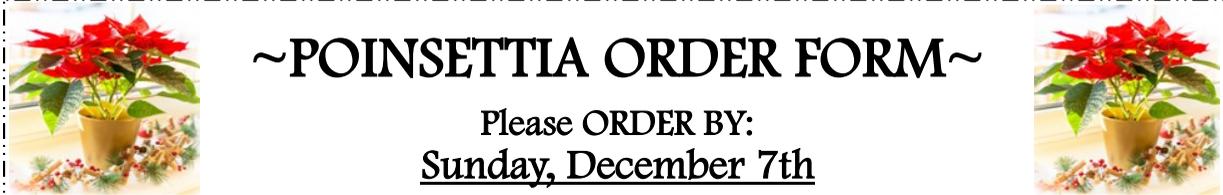
VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.

NEXT SESSION MEETING

November 16, 2025
immediately after worship

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday of month, 5:30
Circle 4: 2nd Wednesday of month, noon



~POINSETTIA ORDER FORM~

Please ORDER BY:
Sunday, December 7th

We will be using red poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the December 14, December 21, and Christmas Eve services. To participate please complete this form and make checks payable to:

McAllister Presbyterian Church

Enclose your CASH or CHECK payment with this form. Return to the church office, offering plate OR you may call in your order at 540-962-2675. Thank you.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

In memory/honor of (circle one): _____

Given By: _____

of Plants: _____ x \$13 ea. = \$ _____

**** You may pick your plant up after the service on December 21st or 24th. ****



TUESDAY, November 4th



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th & 28th
FOR THANKSGIVING.

Prayer Concerns

Linda Baldwin	Bob Bartley	Erin Bartley	Jean Bartley
Ricky Cooke	Richard Crowder	Betty Brown	Allan Broughman
Andy Dreszer	Renee Y. Gann	Rick Casey	Betty Gibson
John Hutchinson	Betty Gibson	Jackie & Linda Keyser	Luke Linkswiler
Lynda Keyser	Cheryl Pritt	Gina Khoury	Christine Lopez
Marilyn Lambert	Hudson Rice	Carter Nicely	Lori Parris
Maria Necolau	Gloria Rousey	Bobby Rice	Frenchy Parris
Brigette Young	Amber Uzzell	Hudson Rice	Randy Pritt
Gov't workers (shutdown)	H.L. Wickham	Angie Sponaugle	Matt Sponaugle
	First Baptist Church	Family of Ed Hemp	Frankie Tucker

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson, Rosa Lee Bartley (#500)
SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays
CARRINGTON PLACE: B.R. Rupert
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, Linda Caldwell, Sandra Capps, Harry & Jean Casey, Joyce Clark, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Renee Gann, Don Hampton, Cory Harrison, Emma Hartless, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Rob Honts, Janet Hubble, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Christine Lopez, Bebe Marshall, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, 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, U.S.A., our troops & government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East.

****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.mcallisternemepcusa.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.



The Greatest Journey Making Disciples

The Greatest Journey, the discipleship program for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift recipients, teaches boys and girls about following Jesus Christ and telling others about Him.

12
SCRIPTURE
LESSONS

in each student workbook:
6 on coming to know Christ;
3 on growing in faith;
3 on sharing the Gospel.

46 MILLION+

boys and girls enrolled since 2009.

2.2 MILLION+

trained volunteer teaching positions filled from local churches worldwide.

23.5 MILLION+

children reported decisions for Christ since 2009.

**"Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations."**

—Matthew 28:19



**"I started to pray and I asked God
to help me follow in His footsteps.
I love sharing the Bible. I tell my
friends to seek God."**

—Ivanna, 12, decided to follow Christ



It is time to get the 2025 Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child** mission underway! Our supplies are ready to go. If you would like to participate, please pickup a shoebox and brochure in the foyer of McAllister Church's fellowship hall, just outside the church office. Fill your box and return it to the church by:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

If you wish to donate by covering shipping costs for the shoeboxes (\$10 per box), please return cash in an envelope to the church office by **November 16th**.

Please write "shoeboxes" on your envelope. Thank you!



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

Your shoebox will be an expression of God's love to a child and may be the only gift he or she receives. So plan to pack quality items that will last. Be sure to make them **FUN**, adding a "wow" item the child will love; **FULL**, with no empty space; and **PERSONALIZED** so that each is unique, prayed over, and includes a note of encouragement.

1

SHOEBOX

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4

PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2

"WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5

DONATE \$10 PER BOX

A donation of **\$10** per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3

OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6

DROP OFF

Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.



SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC

Deaths

*Debrah Martin
Bernice E. Sandidge
Judith Aberle Sivonda
Judy Boerner Dressler
"Preston" Faidley, Sr.
James Hawkins
Henry Douglas Moore
L. "Dolly" Hosey Perez
Dennis Richmond, Sr.
Terry Lee Rock
Susie Ann B. West*

*George Beckwith, Jr.
Mary Ann H. Bennett
Sandra Jean Black
Jean D. Buchanan
Edward "Ed" Hemp
Dennis Lipscomb
Anne Marie M. Martin
Faye McCoy Simmons
Francine George Young*

*Dickie Angell
Catherine Sue Blakey
Latane Brugh
A. "Jack" Hayse, Jr.
Lois E. Hinkle
Tony Edward Tucker
Alyene Bush Whitt
K. "Chuckie" Wykle*

Gifts in Memoriam

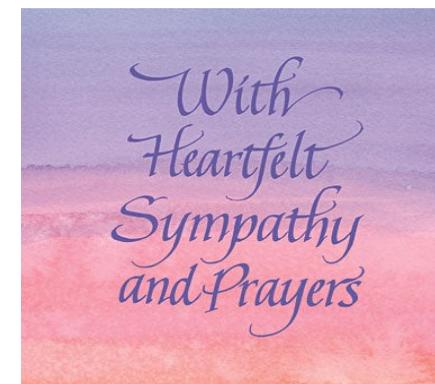
In Loving Memory of my mother, Carol Lemon by:

† Michael Lemon

In Loving Memory of my mother, Thelma Marie Hostetter (Wilkosz) by:

† Vicky Gerow

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and sincerest condolences to:

† Anyone having recently experienced a loss.



Notes from Pastor Jim

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped out and brought food for the potluck lunch that we hosted for the area Presbyterian churches. We had a good event, and it was made possible by your efforts!
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pumpkin Party. The children and adults who came had a great time.
- ◆ The youth and children will be gathering on Sunday, November 9th immediately following worship. We will enjoy lunch and then make Christmas cards for the shut-ins. Please join us!
- ◆ We will decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 23 immediately following worship. Join us as we put up the Chrismon tree and hang the greens, making the sanctuary beautiful for the holiday season.
- ◆ The Community Thanksgiving Service will be on Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 at Mt. Carmel Methodist Church. Join us as we give thanks with our neighbors for all that God has blessed us with.
- ◆ A special C.O.P.E. Food Pantry offering was collected on Sunday, September 21st. The generosity of our congregation allowed us to give \$462 to this wonderful ministry as a result.

AVERAGE OCTOBER 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

58



Christ as Your Neighbor

Highlands Christmas Mother Program 2025

"The stunning truth is that Christ is present in all those you meet. How you treat them is how you treat Him. If you cooperate with grace, you are Christ's hands and heart in the world and a gift of grace to your neighbor."

-Mark P. Shea, *The Work of Mercy*



Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
Mark 12: 31 "...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rachel Garcia Thompson has been announced as the 77th Christmas Mother serving the Alleghany Highlands. Her chosen theme for 2025 is "Christ as Your Neighbor".

How can you serve Christ as Your Neighbor?

- Adopt a Family:** church groups, civic groups and individuals can adopt one or more families and provide the requested items.
- Volunteer:** We welcome individuals to volunteer at the Christmas Mother Shop and children and teens to join our youth volunteer nights, to be announced.
- Donate:** The program appreciates donations of NEW ITEMS, such as toys, children's books, and clothing, sheets, towels, kitchen supplies, paper products, personal care items, and diapers. Adult clothing, used items and stuffed animals (due to allergies) cannot be accepted.
- Contribute:** Monetary donations may be mailed to Highlands Christmas Mother, Inc., P.O. Box 242 Covington, VA 24426, dropped at the shop (First Christian Church) located at 231 E. Fudge Street in Covington, or given online at www.highlandschristmasmother.org.

Applications are already underway. The Christmas Mother shop will open beginning Monday, November 24 through Thursday, December 18 on weekdays from 9a.m.—4p.m. It will be closed November 26-30 for Thanksgiving. All donated items are due to the church by Friday, December 5. This will allow time to purchase necessary items prior to the scheduled distribution dates of December 15 - 17.

The shop can be contacted by phone at 540-529-8922. Information will be regularly updated on their Facebook page which can be followed at "Alleghany Highlands Christmas Mother".

McAllister Kids take on Mill Mountain Zoo—September 28



CONGRATULATIONS



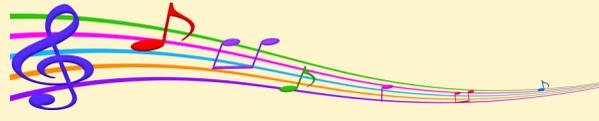
*Adam Harrison Tingler & Grace Marie Abdi
were joined in marriage on
September 27, 2025.
Adam is the son of Harry & Gina Tingler,
members. Grace is the daughter of Angie Abdi
and Melanie Saunders of Halifax.
Adam and Grace, the McAllister Church
family wishes that God may bless you both
with a lifetime of shared love and joy.
Congratulations!*

APPRECIATION

*McAllister Church members and Pastor Jim,
Thanks to all of you for the prayers, visits, flowers, phone calls, cards
and kindness shown to me after my fall. This church family is the
best. God BLESS all of you.
~ Margie Young*

*McAllister Church Family,
I would like to say thank you to everyone who sent cards, food, pray-
ers and more recently. I am so grateful for your kindness. God Bless!
~ Linda Wickham*

*Dear McAllister Church,
My sincerest thanks to Debbie Rodgers, Steve Craft and Pam Poague
who became aware of my condition last Sunday. Special thanks to
Norma Curtin for meeting me at the hospital and Lee Ann Poague
who stayed with me until I was admitted. My deepest gratitude goes to
Rev. Jim Moss and everyone who prayed for me. Your visits,
calls and texts are sincerely appreciated.
~Maria Necolau*



Musical Minute

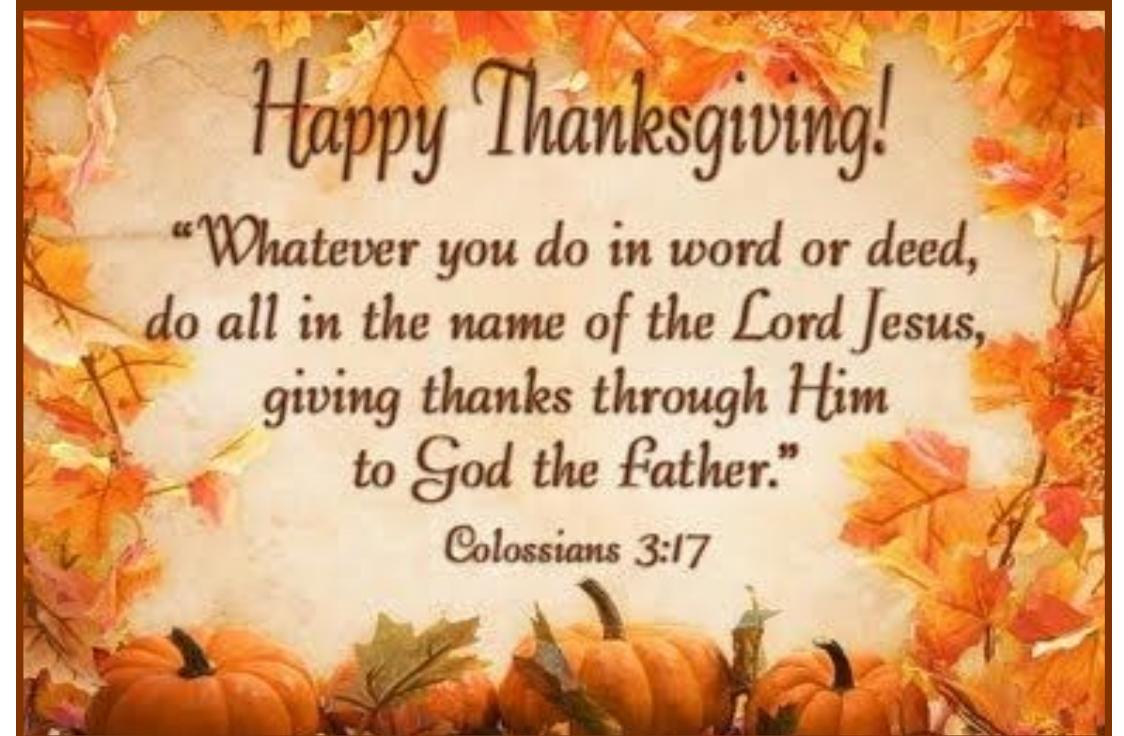
Every time I pull a jacket or coat from the closet this time of year, I can't help but think about my mom. When she'd retrieve an item from the closet after not wearing it for a number of months, she was always so excited to find something of value tucked and forgotten in a pocket. It was a goofy and endearing trait. "Look, I found a mint," she'd say, or "Look, a cherry cough drop!" Even more exciting was, "I found a dollar! What do you wanna go do?!" Back in the day, I'm not sure what a dollar might have purchased—maybe a small soft drink to share at The Burger House at the bottom of Town Hill. Finding a five or ten dollar bill was rare, but was the ultimate bonanza worthy of a real celebration. Usually when I wear something that I've not worn in a while, I find a crumpled tissue in the pocket from the previous winter, but I can't help but think of her when I stick my hand in a pocket and find a quarter. I guess the more we use cards and our phones rather than cash to pay for things, the opportunity to find a surprise stash in a coat pocket will become less frequent, but I still have to smile when I think of mom's optimism at even the smallest things.

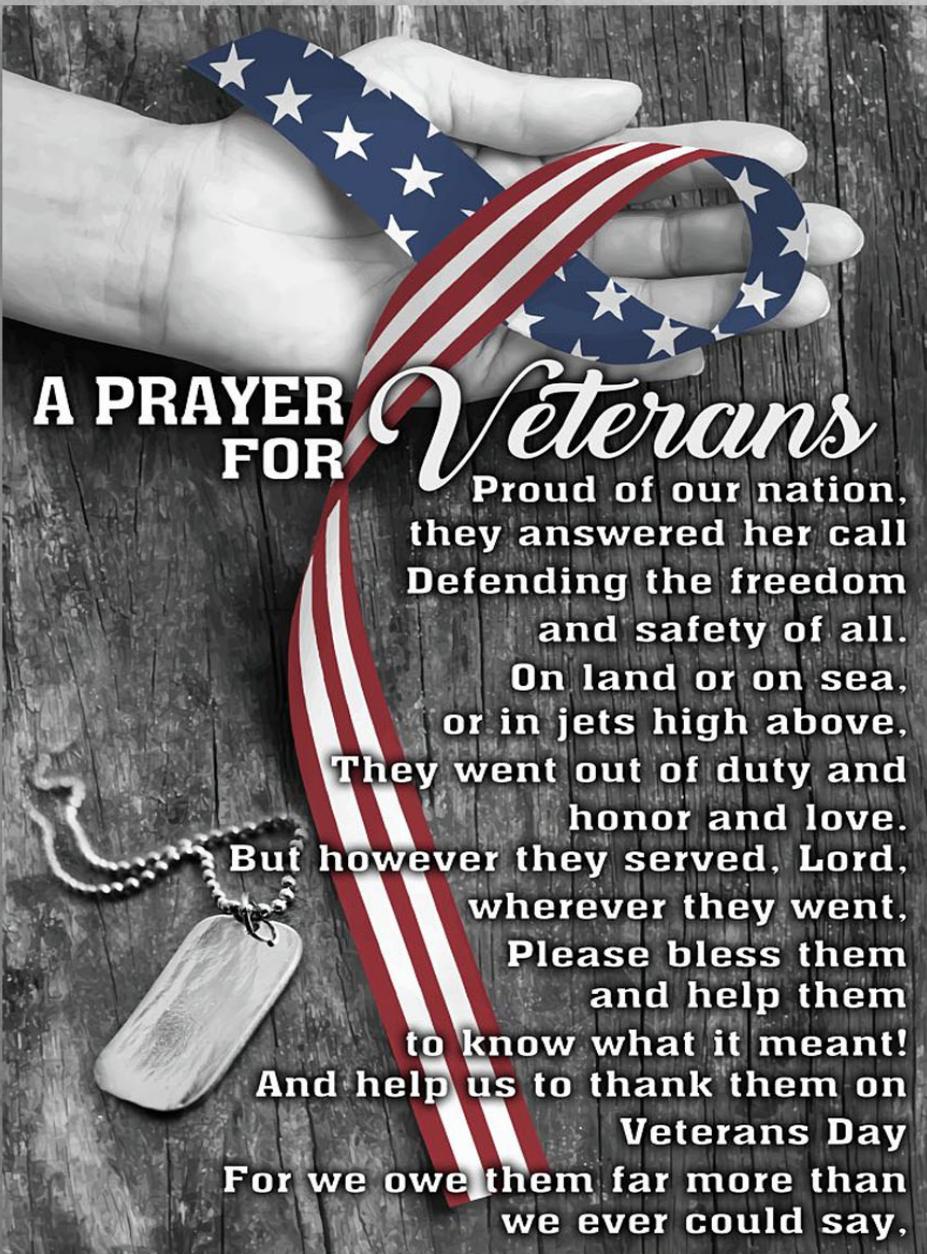
I'm a regular visitor to Covington's recycling drop-off across from the middle school. I know that many of you are, too, as I often run into McAllister members on my frequent trips. More and more I see that people are leaving items along the edges of the collection bins that they think could be of use to someone—picture frames, a high chair that's seen better days, but still looks safe enough, a used kitchen or bathroom fixture left over from a renovation . . . And I've noticed lately that there are often "prospectors" combing through the bags and other items in the dumpsters, proving true the adage that "one man's trash is another man's treasure." One day last fall I found a gentleman who was pleased as punch to have found an almost full pack of zip ties. "These are so useful! Can you believe someone just threw them away?" he exclaimed. "I know," I replied. "My husband uses them all of the time, too." His wife was sitting in the truck just shaking her head.

A couple of weeks ago there was a guy hanging over the edge of the dumpsters when I arrived. We exchanged pleasantries as I dropped off my plastics and cans. As I wished him a good afternoon and returned to my car, he suddenly shouted, "Can you believe it? People are throwing away money!" I looked back to see him holding up a well-worn backpack and a crumpled bill. "It's a dollar," he said. "And there's fifty cents, too," he said, shaking the backpack. I was tickled for him and mom's phrase floated through my head, "What do you wanna go do?!"

Andy and I have so much for which to be thankful this year and I'm approaching the upcoming holiday season with a great deal of relief and a whole lot of gratitude. I'm channeling mom's excitement and hopefulness: It's a crisp, sunny day. "What do you wanna go do?!" It's a rainy, dreary day, but we need the rain so badly. "What do you wanna go do?!" We have our health, a warm house, and food in the fridge. "What do you wanna go do?!" Maybe just stay home and enjoy . . . and be exceedingly grateful. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

~Beth





A PRAYER FOR *Veterans*

Proud of our nation,
they answered her call
Defending the freedom
and safety of all.

On land or on sea,
or in jets high above,
They went out of duty and
honor and love.

But however they served, Lord,
wherever they went,

Please bless them
and help them
to know what it meant!

And help us to thank them on
Veterans Day

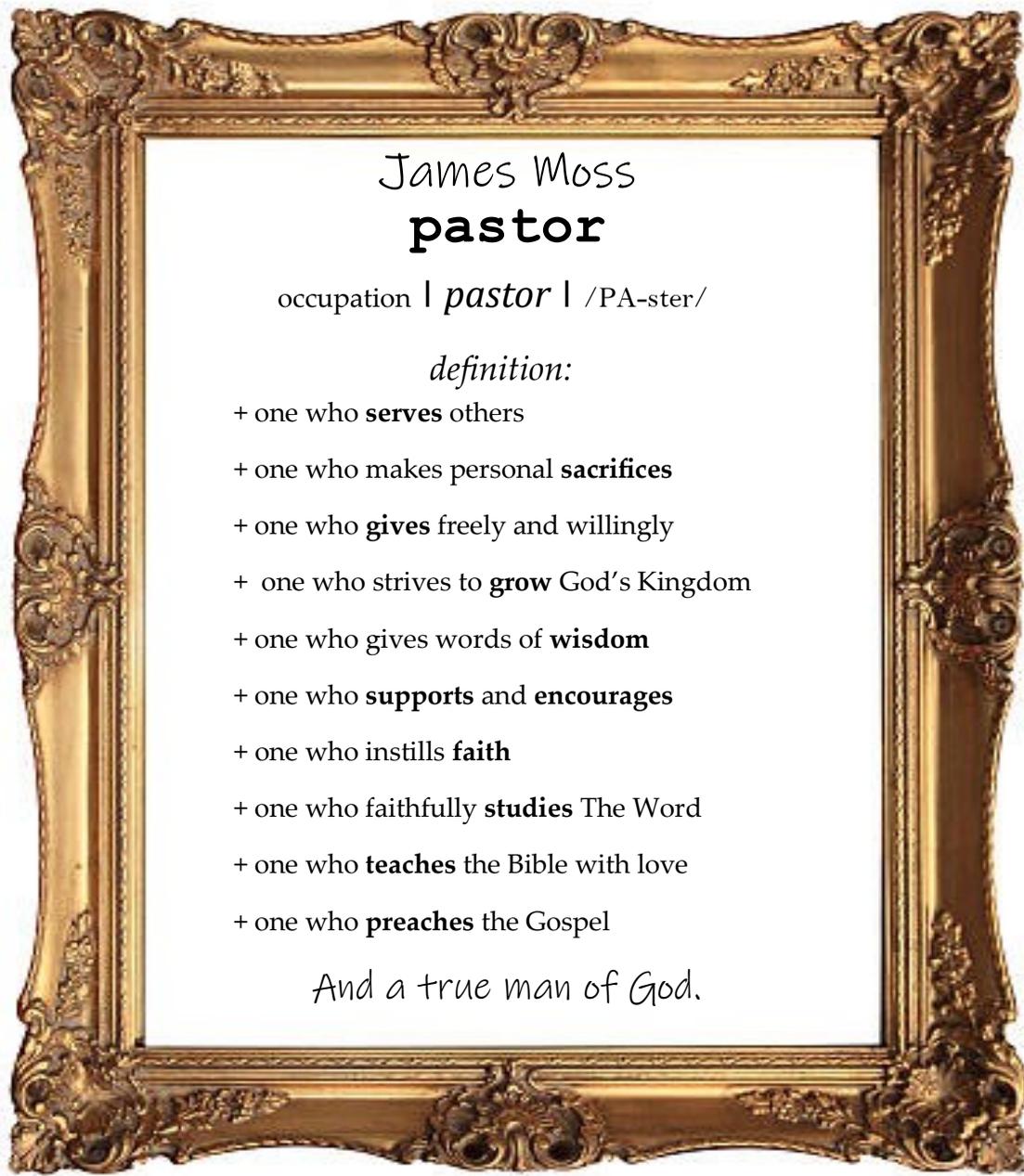
For we owe them far more than
we ever could say.



SO LET'S NOT GET TIRED OF
DOING WHAT IS GOOD. AT
JUST THE RIGHT TIME WE WILL
REAP A HARVEST OF BLESSING
IF WE DON'T GIVE UP.

GALATIANS 6:9 NLT

On Sunday, October 12th we celebrated and showed our appreciation to Pastor Jim Moss for his dedication, leadership, support and love of us, his McAllister Church family.



James Moss
pastor

occupation | *pastor* | /PA-ster/

definition:

- + one who **serves** others
- + one who makes personal **sacrifices**
- + one who **gives** freely and willingly
- + one who strives to **grow** God's Kingdom
- + one who gives words of **wisdom**
- + one who **supports** and **encourages**
- + one who instills **faith**
- + one who faithfully **studies** The Word
- + one who **teaches** the Bible with love
- + one who **preaches** the Gospel

And a true man of God.



Pastor

laboring lovingly
studying diligently
giving selflessly
persevering patiently
feeding the sheep faithfully
pressing towards the mark
not only for your family
but for all of ours
and for that we thank you

We Appreciate You!

Thank you for nearly 7 years of faithful service to McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church.