

McAllister Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Word From Your Pastor - “A Blessed Invitation”

At a recent meeting of the Witness and Evangelism Committee, we discussed ways we can increase the amount of people who visit our church. We talked about Facebook advertising, radio advertising, and even the message that we put on the church sign. These methods might be successful, but none of them is the leading way to draw in people. According to all the studies, the number one reason that people visit a church is because a friend or family member invited them.

And the number one reason that people invite their friends and family to church is because of the loving community that is found here. When we experience church as a place of hope and love, we naturally want to share it with others. Author Rich Birch has the following to say:

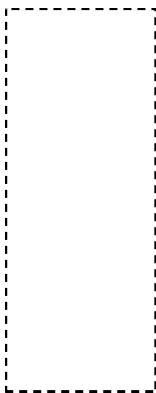
“I believe that local churches are the hope of the world. We are carriers of an incredible message of the transformational impact that Jesus can have on people’s lives. Through the life and love of Jesus, we are empowered to live as the redeemed people of God. We are inspired to serve our communities, which regenerate our towns and cities.”

In other words, the local church is where the message of salvation is brought to the world. It is where we live out the love of Christ. That is good news that is the nature of our community. Why wouldn’t we want to share this community with our family and friends?

I would like to present you with a challenge: During the month of September, pray to God to reveal to you one person to invite to church. I am going to take this challenge with you. I already have in mind somebody that I am going to invite. If we can do this one simple thing, we will be surprised at what will happen. We will be encouraged by how the Holy Spirit moves through our efforts. And we will be inspired how God grows our faith community.



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



OCT. 2026
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
September 23rd

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

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



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online giving link:

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



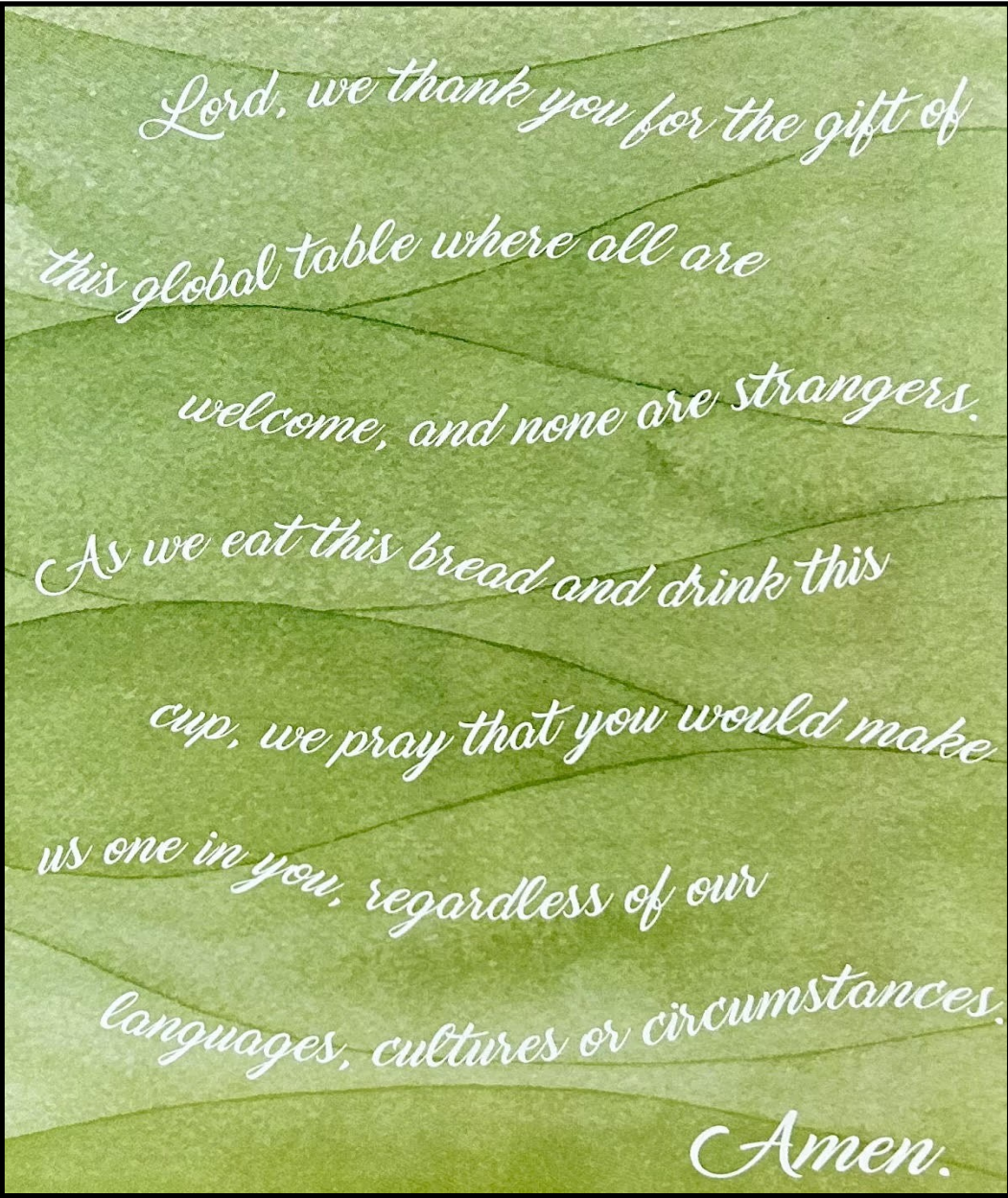


4—Eric Hayslett
5—Burnette Crawford
6—Shelby Rock
7—Brenda Linkenhoker, Benjamin Moss, Rylee Plott
8—Callie Uzzell
10—Carol Fleenor, Lennox Webb
11—Priscilla Downer, Darrell Tucker
12—Donna Cadd Craft
13—Kenzie Cline, Deanna D'Arpa
15—Adam Baker
19—Karen Arahovites
20—Wendy Poague, Shane Reid
21—Conner 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



Happy Anniversary!

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



Lord, we thank you for the gift of
this global table where all are
welcome, and none are strangers.
As we eat this bread and drink this
cup, we pray that you would make
us one in you, regardless of our
languages, cultures or circumstances.
Amen.

Welcome September!

May this month bring you satisfaction, peace and joy.

May all the desires of your heart be granted.

May this be the beginning of new things in your life.

Stay strong, be positive and fulfill your dreams

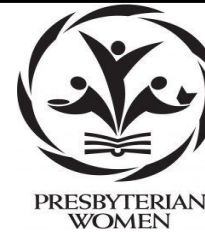
Happy new month friends!



SEPT. 4



National Food Bank Day



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

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

NEXT STATED SESSION MEETING:
Sunday, September 13
immediately following worship



BIBLE STUDY will resume Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.



ADULT CHOIR will resume Tuesday, September 8th at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Brenda Linkenhoker continues to lead handbell practices on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at church. She would love to have you join her group!



RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER: Although the local Relay For Life event has concluded, our McAllister team continues to raise funds until the campaign closes. The next fundraiser will be another dinner night at **Michael's Pizzeria (Covington)** on **Thursday, September 3rd** from 5—9 p.m. Take the night off from cooking, join us!



The church office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 7th in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Prayer Concerns

Hershall Andrews	Tammy Barker	Allen Broughman	Jeremy Bartley (travel)
Curtis Clemmons	Phoebe Camden	Summit Caul	Priscilla Downer
Ricky Cooke (home)	Sheila H. Craft	Paul Dameron	Barbara Flint
Luke Crawford	Lee Kyle	Linda Dressler	Lisa Hoke
Greg "Pickle" Dill	Timothy Nicely	Clarice Halsey	Rob Honts
Kenny Duncan	Baby Truett Ryder	Pat Loving	Ronnie, Violet Jones
Carrie Dressler	Stephanie Wells	Gary Tingler	Diane Lambert
Joey Martin	VA, Our Country	Betty Treynor	Gladys, Devone Laws
Jimmy Spinks	US military, families	Teresa Vess	Pat Martin
H.L. Wickham	Family/friends of	Carson White	Barbara Noel
Students, teachers, staff back to school	U.S. soldiers killed	Beau Moore	David Bess
Nepal (China)	Middle East	Dot Wimer	Troy Shaffer Family
	Our World	Buzzy Riley	

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Sarah Mays

THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island): Shelby Rock

SHUT-IN: Bob & Leta Bartley, Ricky Cooke, Dolly Whitehead

Danny & Rhoda Hill, Darlene & Jerry Taylor (Sr.)

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, Sandra Capps, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Renee Gann, Don Hampton, Emma Hartless, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Rob Honts, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Christine Lopez, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Mary Rice, James Rice, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Jerry Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe. Rider Yeagley, former President Joe Biden. Nancy Guthrie: family, friends, community. Our church, non-believers, unspoken prayers, first responders, United States, U.S. troops & government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East.



McAllister Kids Party At The Pool~ August 6, 2026

The Covington City Pool was the site of yet another summer party with our McAllister children and youth. Pizza was enjoyed followed by lots of swimming and fun!



Deaths

<i>Betty West Cade</i>	<i>“W.G.” Anderson, Jr.</i>	<i>Clayton H. Cary</i>	<i>Janice Lodge Buss</i>
<i>Teresa Cashwell</i>	<i>Basil B. Ingram</i>	<i>“Mickey” Craghead</i>	<i>Susan Post</i>
<i>J. “Mike” Givens</i>	<i>Patricia M. Myers</i>	<i>Kenneth Davis</i>	<i>Elliott W. Reeves, II</i>
<i>Preston Rucker, Sr.</i>	<i>Geraldine H. Sartain</i>	<i>R. “Ronnie” Jones</i>	<i>Shirley L. Ryder</i>
<i>Troy Reed Shaffer</i>	<i>Rocky S. Washburn, Sr.</i>	<i>Allen W. Livesay</i>	<i>O. “Bud” Shires, Jr.</i>
<i>Patty Steele</i>	<i>Todd Randolph Wolfe</i>	<i>R.E. “Ricky” Poage</i>	<i>W. “Pops” Watson</i>
<i>Eunice Y.D. Tolley</i>			

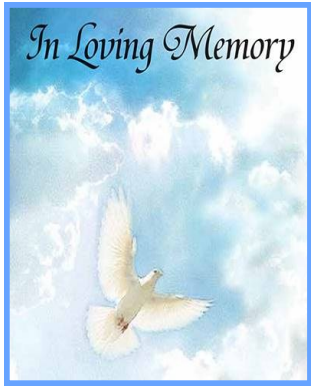
With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and our sincerest condolences to:

*Anyone having recently suffered a loss AND the entire Dolly Parton “nation” of family, friends, fans, followers, community and many more who are mourning the loss of an incredible soul and icon. Dolly radiated love and spread the word of God her entire life. Humble until her last breath on this Earth, she will be terribly missed but celebrated for many years to come.
Rest in paradise, Dolly.

Gifts in Memoriam



In Memory Jean Broughman (Buzzy Riley’s mother) by:

✝ Chuck & Jean Bartley

In Memory “B.A.” Fridley by:

✝ Larry Washburn



Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◆ *Choir practice resumes on Tuesday, September 8 at 3:00. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, now would be a great time. You do not need any experience, just the desire to make a joyful noise to the Lord!*
- ◆ *Bible study starts back Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00. We will be taking an in-depth look at the Gospel of John. Join us as we explore the meaning of God's Word for our lives.*
- ◆ *September 20 will be a special Sunday in our church. We will be honoring the legacy of **Betty Gibson**, who passed away this spring. We will also have a **Baptism** for Betty's great-granddaughter, Eloise Broughman.*
- ◆ *We will be having a **churchwide luncheon** on Sunday, September 20. The church will provide chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.*
- ◆ *Save the Date! We will be celebrating **McAllister's Homecoming** on Sunday, December 6. This will be the 108th anniversary of our congregation. We will have a special worship service and a **luncheon**.*
- ◆ *The children are giving the proceeds from their "Noisy Offering" collected during Sunday worship to the **Alleghany Humane Society**. They are also collecting dog and cat food, treats, bedding, toys, cat litter, and urine pads to donate. Please place these items in the pew next to the piano in the Fellowship Hall. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!*

AVERAGE AUG. 2026 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:



Appreciation

Dear McAllister Church,

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous monetary donation in support of our Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 19th, 2026 at Jeter-Watson Park on Pine Street.

Your kindness and generosity played a vital role in making this event a meaningful joyful experience for our community. Because of your support, over 300 people were in attendance and we provided families with gifts, hope, and encouragement as we honored freedom, culture, and unity.

It is such a blessing to live in a community with amazing neighbors and friends who care deeply about uplifting others. Your contribution truly reflects the spirit of Juneteenth- freedom, love, and the power of community.

Thank you again for being a part of this special day. May God continue to bless you abundantly for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gregory Rice
Juneteenth Legacy United Chairman

****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. 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.

Appreciation

Dear McAllister Family,

I would like to thank you for presenting me with the Honorary Life Membership. It is such an honor for my name to be placed alongside all the wonderful ladies past and present at McAllister Church. To have my family present on such a special occasion was one of the best days ever! Thank you for arranging this and surprising me in such a special way. May God continue to bless the "church on the hill."

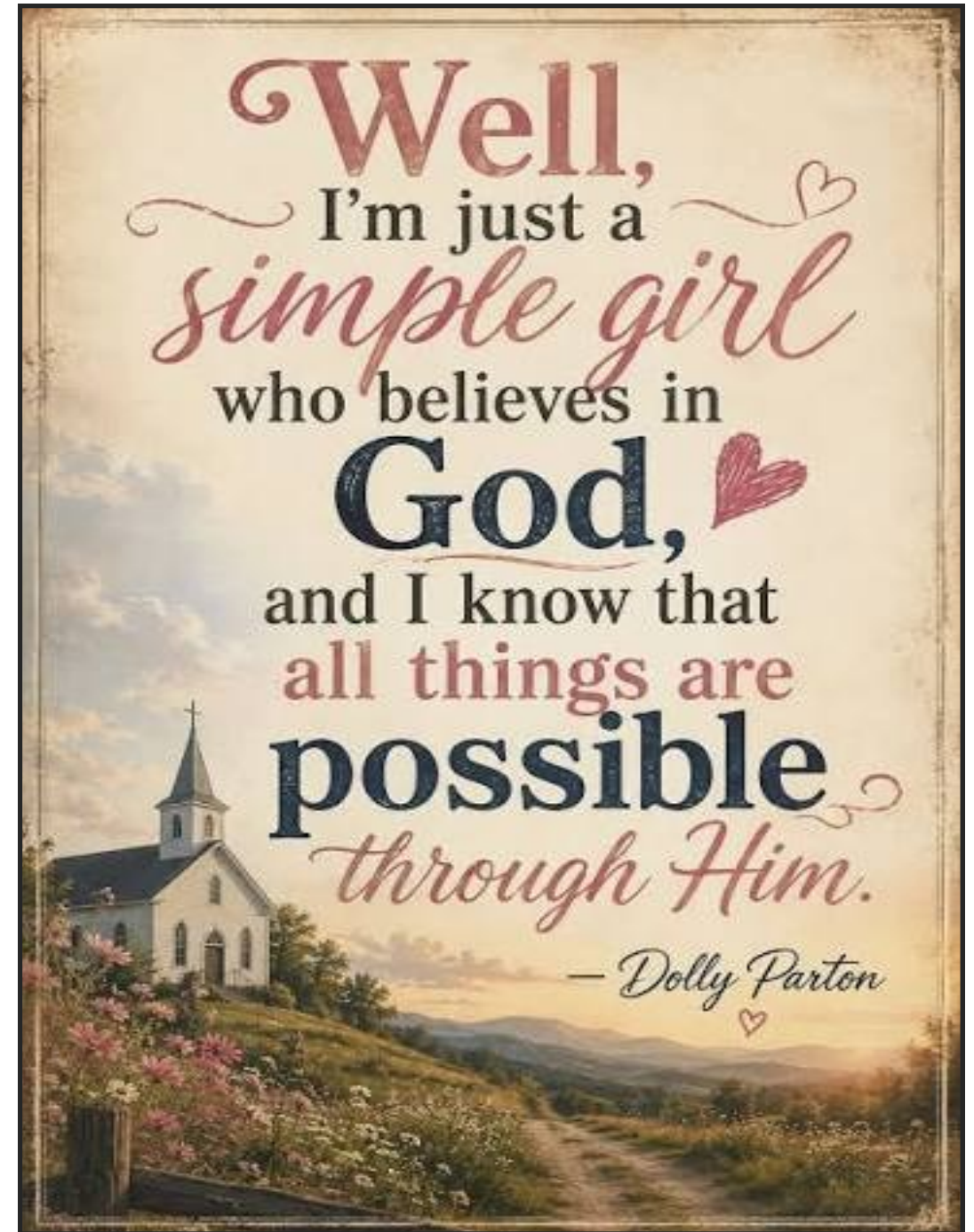
Love,
Diane Hicks

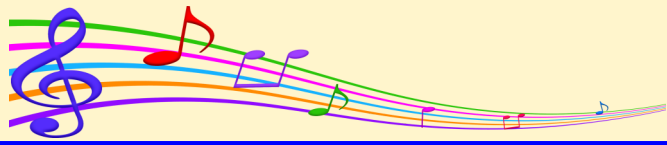


To all members and Pastor Moss of McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so very much for your prayers and concern for me during the medical problems I am going through, especially the phone call from Reverend Moss. I came through the test but no results so I still need your prayers. Again, THANK you!

Kathleen Langhorne Loan





Musical Minute

September—a month of anticipation and expectancy, a month of new beginnings, or the beginning of the end, depending on how you look at it. Andy and I have acquaintances who are sending their young off to new adventures this fall. One young man is heading off to his first year of college while a certain young lady is headed to far-away Texas to begin her career. Whether it be marriage, college, the military, new jobs, or some other path, they are only two of many young adults this summer and fall taking the first steps in what will become their future and eventually, their life. Who knows what adventures and challenges they'll face, but surely, both will be plentiful. There will be new friends (while hopefully managing to cling on to the old, dear ones), steep learning curves, and an exhilarating sense of independence. Their parents are pleased, even a bit proud, in the best way one can be proud of one's offspring. And the parents, like their children, are hopeful, but also unsettled. The term bittersweet comes to mind. None of them have ever done this before, not in this way. The parents, of course, left home once, but they were never the ones left behind. I feel for them . . .

I found a photo a year or so ago of the day I left my home on Lexington Avenue to spend a semester in London, England. I'd already been in college for two years, but I was just in Roanoke, so mom and dad always knew they could get to me in a little over sixty minutes, if needed. In the photo, I'm standing on the front porch proving to my family that I could, indeed, carry everything that I'd packed. I'm young—smiling, laughing, excited—trying to heave a whole bunch of luggage down the front steps. Andy and I had just started dating that summer and he documented the day on camera. It was a true gift, at the time and in retrospect, not only memories of a big day in my life, but a trove of great photos of mom and dad. Andy had the photos developed quickly, and soon after my arrival in London, he sent me a small photo album with scenes from home—shots of mom and dad around the dinner table, fall flowers in the back garden, a couple of photos of our little dog Fiddlestix next to the autumn pumpkin, etc. But the album opened with photos from the day I flew out from Washington Dulles. There's a beautiful photograph of mom and dad outside on the old observation deck watching my plane take off. Taken from behind it shows dad's arms braced on the ledge of the deck. Mom is holding on to his left arm with her face buried in his shoulder as the sky dims after a hot, late summer day. It was a touching photo for me when I received it in 1985, but now it positively makes me weep. Here I was, joyfully setting off for grand adventures on another continent, while my folks stared anxiously at the sky watching my plane grow ever more distant, excited for the opportunities I'd have, but terrified at the many unknowns I'd face.



A few days after my arrival in London (where I had been placed with a lovely family for the duration of my stay) I awoke to unbearable itching. Upon exploration, my new roommate and I discovered that my torso and upper arms were covered in big, red welts. Ick . . . What could this scourge be? The next day when I got to the college where we attended classes, I immediately checked in with the "University Health Services" department and not too long after was taken in to see a physician. He was a pleasant "chap" and asked the normal questions one would expect in such circumstances. He was interested to learn that I'd only recently arrived in England and asked how I'd felt in the leadup to the trip. "Were you nervous, scared, uneasy," he asked. I told him that I'd not been particularly nervous, just excited. "Well, Elizabeth, I believe we've found the nerves that you kept so well hidden before your trip. These blobby bits are hives, and I think they're an indication that you were a bit more nervous than you thought. No need to worry. I've got just the thing." Blobby bits—now there's a term that I've never forgotten! Even more than forty years later, Andrew and I find a way to work it into conversation at least once a month! The doctor prescribed me some tablets and a cream, and the situation cleared itself quickly as the meds helped and I found my new routine and path in London.

No matter how rosy our outlook, how positive our attitude, how courageous and confident we believe ourselves to be, there are always some metaphorical "blobby bits" waiting to pop up. I survived my semester in London, as did mom and dad, and the experience was everything for me they had hoped it would be. I wish I could tell you that every activity was edifying and instructional, and in truth, most were. There was lots of theater (or theatre, as the Brits spell it), mesmerizing ballet performances, private pipe organ lessons at a beautiful church near where I lived, tons of Shakespeare, orchestral performances, classes, museum visits, and more. But to be honest, some outings were just plain fun. I won't elaborate on those. I had, don't forget, turned 20 not too many days before boarding the plane . . . ! I hope there are none in your future, but if you do happen to get a case of the "blobby bits," I hope you can turn to a good doctor, a dear friend, or a trusted advisor, to help you get through the itchy days and get on to what's next. Very much like my days in London, there is adventure and beauty waiting around most every corner, something new to learn and see, or someone new to meet, if we can just get rid of the "bits" first! Take good care.

~Beth