

# The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

[www.mallardcreekchurch.org](http://www.mallardcreekchurch.org) | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

December 2023



## From Pastor Rob

We are again in the Holiday Season. Some folks in my neighborhood began stringing their Christmas lights even as they took down their Halloween decorations. It felt a little weird, though, as most of the trees in our corner of the world still had their leaves, and some of those were still the deep green of summer. A snowman in 80 degree sunshine just didn't feel right.

In the life of faith, we are in Advent—the time of preparation to welcome anew the Christ Child into the world.

And do we need him...

Wars rage. Earthquakes rumble through different corners of the world. We are already into an election cycle that I do not think anyone much is enjoying.

We need the light, joy, promise, possibility, and, yes, peace of the Nativity. It is a gift from God as refreshing as a deep breath—a pause to catch ourselves and stop for a minute.



I hope we can all do that this December. I hope we can find moments when we can just sit still, look at the twinkling lights, enjoy a cup of a favorite holiday beverage, sing a carol, or just sit with a beloved and soak in the season.

We are offering some moments where we might do that—

the children are presenting a wonderful, laughter-filled musical on December 3 at 930 am;

the choir is singing us into Christmas with their cantata on December 17 at 1030 am;

on Christmas Eve, we are offering three chances to worship the Christ child at 1030 am, 500 pm, and 700 pm; each with little different spin on the Nativity...

—so take a break and join with us in the celebration.

But I also hope you can just spend some time with the story itself. For this year, I would recommend you peruse the story in the Gospel of Luke. Start with Ch. 1, reading about how the Baptist was a miracle child in his own right, bringing joy to a couple who believed themselves long past such moments. Continue with the story of Mary, marveling at the faith of a remarkable young woman who willingly became an instrument of God no matter the risks doing so brought. Then go right into the wonderfully familiar story of Bethlehem, the manger, the angels, and the shepherds. Let the 'good news of great joy' fill your heart and soul, carrying your spirit right through the month.

We here at church wish you and yours a most blessed and wonderful Advent and Christmas!

## Hunter's Thoughts

The Advent Season brings so much to do and to plan and to prepare. Seems we have just gotten the table cleared from Thanksgiving when we start to decide who will bring what for the Christmas meal. And all of the gold and rust and brown decorations are getting traded out for the red and green and white. At this time of year, we tend to just jump from one major event to another. It is equally exciting and exhausting.



What I have to remind myself to do each year is to appreciate the anticipation. That can mean the quivering excitement of a child waiting to see Santa or shaking boxes under the Christmas tree. It can be the expectation of seeing family members who are seen far too infrequently. It can be the suspense and excitement of what that special present may be.

All of these are part of it for me. But I also try to remember the quiet anticipation of hope. And that hope can be so many different things for each of us - hope for improvement, hope for rescue, hope for clarity, hope for renewal. It can be hope for reconciliation, hope for comfort and peace, or even the hope to feel the joy of each new day. But most of all, I think it is the hope of a deepening connection with God.

The word "advent" implies "approach" or "emergence" or "development" - words that in themselves don't seem to have much emotion to them. Yet when I think of the hope that was in the hearts of those people waiting for the Messiah 2000 years ago, the words carry much more significance. People who had felt oppression and separation and even abandonment were struggling to feel connected to God. But when they could read from Isaiah and some of the other prophets about the one who was to come, they could feel some hope. And that gave them something to anticipate.

My prayer for all of us this Advent Season is that we can allow the hope to emerge and develop around and within us. I pray that we can avoid the pitfalls of "just getting through the holidays" so we can be "back to normal". Instead, let us be in the moment of anticipation - not dread or exhaustion. Let us look forward to the coming of the Christ child in our lives in new ways that we cannot predict or even plan for. But we can anticipate, knowing that the love of God will continue to be shown in both familiar and brand new ways for all of us.

May you and yours have a blessed time of Advent.



Last month, the Pre-K classes celebrated Thanksgiving with their Pre-K Thanksgiving Feast, which was **catered by Melissa Shoupe—the Catering Specialist**. It was an awesome event where the children, staff, families, and volunteers enjoyed great fellowship and delicious food!



**THANK YOU** to the wonderful volunteers who helped make this event such a huge success: **Harvey Alexander, Mack Downing, Patty Hawks, Marlene Huneycutt, Karen Kosmoski, Susan Mach, Charlotte, McConnell, Sandra Tracy, and Linda Wallace!!!**  
We couldn't have done it without you!

This month, we will celebrate Jesus' birth and focus on joy, hope, peace, and love. The students will learn about the true meaning of Christmas by coming together to sing songs, celebrate Jesus' birthday, visit with Santa, and have a Christmas celebration in their classroom before they leave for Christmas break.



*This Photo* by Unknown

**You are cordially invited to help us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at MCPCP's Christmas Program on Monday, December 18, 2023, in the church sanctuary at 11:30 a.m.**

**Our staff, along with volunteers, will present the Nativity Story and our students will sing some Christmas songs for you.**

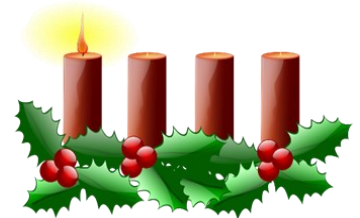
**We hope you will join us!!!**

*Each of our classes participate in at least one mission project each school year to help teach the children the importance of giving to and helping others. This month our preschool children, staff, and families are collecting items to make Christmas boxes for homebound people through Meals on Wheels. What a wonderful way to spread joy during the Christmas season!*

**A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair and our Chick-fil-A Spirit Night! We had a great turnout at both and appreciate all who participated and those who volunteered!**

**Mark your calendars now! Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will start on January 22, 2024!** Please share with your friends and neighbors and help us continue to grow and learn.

The preschool and preschool office will be closed for Christmas break from Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, through Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will re-open at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



Our Bible verse for this month is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours!!!**

### Ways to give at Mallard Creek



Scan  
QR  
Code

**We give because  
GOD GAVE FIRST**

*"For God so loved the world he gave his only Son."*

- John 3:16

Text  
MCPC  
to 73256



# Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

## December 2023 Youth Club Schedule:

Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm	
Date	Event
12/3	Mission - Christmas Caroling (4:00 PM)
12/10	Christmas PJ Party
12/17	Sabbath (Christmas Break)
12/24	Evening Family Christmas Eve Service
12/31	Sabbath (New Years Eve)

## December 2023 Teen Fellowship Schedule:

Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm	
Date	Event
12/3	Mission - Christmas Caroling (4:00 PM)
12/10	Christmas Party
12/17	Sabbath (Christmas Break)
12/24	Evening Family Christmas Eve Service
12/31	Sabbath (New Years Eve)



**YOUR GIFTS MAKE THIS POSSIBLE**

DONATIONS TO MCPC ALSO COVER THE NON FUN THINGS LIKE POWER, WATER, HEAT, ETC

THANK YOU for your support  
 THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THANKS YOU  
 FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!  
 YOUR DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP  
 REDUCE OUR 2023 SHORT FALL  
 Happy Holidays



A Celtic Christmas Celebration  
**Season of Joy**  
**Choir Cantata**  
**Dec 17 10:30 am**

## To Donate Stock to MCPC

Contact your brokerage house and request a form to transfer stock to a non-profit as a gift.

The stocks being gifted will be to:

**Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, Inc.**  
**1600 West Mallard Creek Church Road**  
**Charlotte NC 28262**  
**Phone: 704-547-0038**



The church account is with UBS Financial Services and the account number is **C433095 (DTC 0221)**

You will need to call the Financial Manager at the church office:

- Tell her the stock is being transferred. She will then show your gift on the church records when the stock transfer is completed. You must call her as UBS does not send her the name of the donor. Also tell her which fund or project the gift is to be applied to.

**The Lunch Bunch program for Tuesday, December 19, will be our Christmas Party, singing Christmas Carols, having a Cookie Exchange (bring 3 dozen cookies), and a White Elephant gift exchange. This will be lots of fun so please join us.**



## Year End Tax Tips

It's that time of year again when leaves are falling and the holidays are upon us. Many people take this time to try and help their tax situation for 2023 by using charitable gifts to lower their taxable income.

There are several ways you can accomplish this goal:



**1.) Outright gifts of cash or checks to charity.** This may help lower your taxable income if you are able to itemize, but the standard deduction is so high now, gifts to charity made with cash or checks may not help lower your taxes.

**2.) Gifts of stock to charity.** This can help lower your taxes if you gift stocks that have a low basis. If you sell the stocks yourself, you may realize capital gains that are taxable, but if you gift the stocks to charity and they sell them, there is no capital gain. Gifting stocks may not provide a reduction in your current taxable income if you are not able to itemize, but it can lessen the impact of future taxes by eliminating capital gains.

**3.) Gifts made to charity using the Qualified Charitable Distribution.** If you are 70.5 years or older and would like to support a charity, consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to a qualified charity. A QCD keeps IRA distributions from impacting your adjusted gross income (AGI) now and in the future. It works whether you take the standard deduction or itemize deductions, and it can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD), if you have one.

Please consider making a year-end gift to MCPC. If you have any questions, you can contact Andy Spittle, Clay Scholand, or Lynn Davidson from the Finance Committee. Our Financial Secretary, Amanda Booth, can also assist with the necessary forms. Thanks!

January - Nov 15, 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION	
Year to Date income	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$1,592.34
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$253,618.74
ONLINE GIVING	\$128,284.51
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$28,230.12
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$431,725.71
YTD INCOME	\$431,725.71
YTD EXPENSES	\$537,545.06
<b>Reserves Spent</b>	<b>(\$105,819.35)</b>

Contributions	
January	\$36,873.66
February	\$43,353.43
March	\$42,998.84
April	\$34,910.84
May	\$28,525.55
June	\$49,731.00
July	\$51,830.00
Aug	\$37,203.00
Sept	\$26,711.53
Oct	\$28,908.74
Nov (1/2 a month)	\$22,449.00
Total Contributions	\$403,495.59

### GIFTS FOR YEAR 2023

To ensure your financial gift is posted to 2023

- **Place it in the collection plate on or before Sunday 12/31/2023**
- **Mailed payments received by 12/28/2023**
- **Online payments began on or before 12/28/2023**

Gifts received after these dates will be posted to your 2024 MCPC gift statement.

The officers and the Finance committee thank you for your generous support to our church.




**The Finance Committee**



## Special Prayers



Reggie Dunham - close friend of Tammy Sheehan	Tommy Oehler	Doris Dearmon	Linda Benfield
Brenda Dodds - friend of Sara Haynes	Shirley Hunter	Cecil Massey	Donna Seaford
Donna Garrison—wife of Eddie Garrison	Juanita Untz	Roy Kinnamon	Suggie Christenbury
Larry Carroll - husband of Ann Carroll	Ruby Downing	Tommy Almond	David Whitmire
Steve Sechler— brother in law of Mack	Donnie Oehler	Ken Christenbury	Carolyn Sheehan
Linda Taylor - sister-in-law of Nancy Busch	Beth Massey	Judith Rankin	Lynn Kelley
Caroline Williams	Ann Brown	Carlita Hunter	<b>Ralph Brand</b>
Joey Munday— Mack's friend	Jane Geracimos	Elizabeth King	Dale McLaughlin
JW and Vivian Avant	Patsy Oehler	Mary Huber	<b>Mike Maddux</b>
Lois Spradley's granddaughter, Danika	<b>Donny Brown</b>	<b>Bobby Brown</b>	
<b>The Lapalombella Family, including Mary Snow</b>		<b>Blanche Hodges— Aunt in law of Bonnie</b>	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January Birthdays</h1> 						
						
	1 Linda Benfield William Achurch	2 Fred Campbell Brandon Putnam Raelyn Oehler Roy Skinner	3 Linda Wallace Heather Andreasen	4	5 Kenny Brown Calla Oehler	6 Paul Christenbury Shirley Hunter
7 Chance Rosenberger Marty Brown	8 Jim Brown	9 Jarrett Garrison McKenna Estes	10 Debbie Hunter	11 Jennifer Lazarus Bailey Mitchell	12 Dennis McCrary Matt Palmer CJ Scott	13 Barbara Alexander
14 Tommy Mitchell	15 Phyllis Jones Dave Andreasen Lauren Cochran	16	17	18 Scott Moss Cale Oehler	19	20 Craven Oehler
21 Sonja Benton Johnnie Cartner, Jr. Joshua Kiser Jennifer Messina	22 Rob Johnson	23	24 Sheila DeArmon	25 Maria Menconi	26 Allison Young	27 Evan Guiney Jack Schultz
28 Lisa Oehler Eric Johnson	29 Maria Martini	30 Caitlin Blevins	31 Jo Moore Chuck Keys Alexa Moor Jake White			

**Elder duty for December:** Nancy Busch , Harvey Alexander , Perry Deaton

**Deacon duty for December :** Leigh Johnson, Jean MacNeil, Andrew Coore, Allston Oehler, Chris Mingus

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The Rev. Rob Watkins  
The Rev. Hunter Roddey  
Ms. Amanda Booth  
Ms. Claudia Perez  
Mr. David Barnaba  
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Senior Pastor  
Transitional Associate Pastor  
Financial Manager  
Administrative Assistant  
Director of Music  
Preschool Director