



The Scroll

MallardCreek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

From Pastor Rob

February is, of course, home to Valentine's Day—formally known as the Feast of St Valentine—and, yes, there really was a St Valentine! His story is worth hearing...

Valentine was a priest living in the Roman Empire during the 3rd Century somewhere near the middle of Italy. His ministry was profound as he cared for persecuted Christians about to be martyred, offering them care, comfort, and compassion during their final imprisonment (during his lifetime, Christianity was still outlawed in the Empire). He made sure these faithful folk knew they were loved even as they faced their executions. He himself eventually joined them in prison, arrested for his service. While there, he befriended the daughter of his jailer, and according to legend began to exchange secret letters with her—the first Valentines. That friendship did not spare his life, however, and he, too, died a martyr. Several miracles were attested to him, including healing the jailer's daughter of blindness and of healing an epileptic (he became the patron saint of all epileptics). His ministry embodied the love and grace of Christ.

Which begins to inform how we might think and consider love in this month of Valentines.

St Paul wrote one of the most beautiful explications of love we have in 1 Corinthians 13. In that paragraph, he reminds us of the power of self-sacrificial love centered on the needs of others—it can literally change the lives of both the beloved and the lover. As we lose ourselves in compassion and grace, we gain a fullness and richness to life that nothing else can give us. We know this well—the more we do for others, the better life seems. So, rather than get lost in a Hallmark version of romance, maybe it might be more beneficial and worthwhile to go a bit deeper, learning how to love others with a selfless love, seeking the well-being and welfare of someone else, trying to make life a little better, a little brighter, and a little more like the Kingdom.

One final note—St Valentine is also the patron saint of beekeepers! Perhaps he knew also that true love can sometimes sting! When we become vulnerable with another, there is always the risk that it won't be returned in kind. But as Valentine knew so well, not to love was far more painful than the pain of loving another completely.

So, as we enter this month of love, may we do so with eyes wide open; hearts wide open; and arms wide open to serve those around us with the grace, mercy, and redeeming hope we find in Christ our Lord.





A big THANK YOU to Pastor Rob for visiting with our students last month to tell them about the church, what his job is at the church, who else works at the church, when we have church, what we do in church, and why there are certain fixtures (i.e. stained glass windows, pulpit) in the church. The children really enjoyed it!

February is a busy month for us! It is Dental Health Month so the students will talk about brushing their teeth, keeping their mouth healthy, and eating healthy foods. Our children will also celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating bags, making valentines, exchanging valentines with their friends, and having classroom celebrations.

On Groundhog Day, we will be watching to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not. If so, we will have six more weeks of winter.

At the end of the month, our three classes will have their Annual Multi-cultural Day. Each class will represent a country, and the children will rotate from one class to another so they can learn interesting facts, dances, games, and sample different foods from each of these countries.

We also look forward to Mr. Ed's Live Dinosaurs coming at the end of the month to share his dinosaurs with the children.

REGISTRATION for the 2025-2026 school year is OPEN! We would LOVE to have your child join us at MCPCP next year! **The deadline for Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church members to register is 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, February 13th** through the Brightwheel software system. If you would like more information or want to schedule a tour, please email Paige Tait at paiget@mallardcreekchurch.org or call the preschool office at 704-549-9741.

Do you LOVE to Read? If so, we would LOVE for you to come and read to our children during our March Reading Program, which begins on March 3rd and ends on March 27th. *You can come and read in person, facetime us, or send us a video of you reading a book. If you are interested, please email Kristy at kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741.*

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! It will be in the bus garage from March 3rd through 6th. The book fair will be OPEN for church members to shop on Sunday, March 2nd, after the 10:30 church service and online (link will be shared next month). *If you would like to help with the book fair that week, please email Kristy at the email address above or call the preschool office at the above number.*

Our Bible verse for the month is: "I will be glad and rejoice in You." Psalm 9:2



Pastor Rob at Preschool



Teachers who are also church members



Church News

Inclement Weather Procedures

The Property Committee will evaluate the campus after an event and notify the Clerk of Session their findings.

Property will recommend delay, closure, limited access, etc.

If this is an event preceding a Sunday they should try to evaluate by four pm on Saturday afternoon.

If the event is on Saturday night, then evaluate by seven am Sunday morning and cancel early Worship that day at minimum.

Mid-week events will be evaluated and notifications given as soon after or during the event.

MCPCP follows Charlotte Mecklenburg closures, however we need to be sure our facilities are safe for preschool to operate on any given day.

The Clerk of Session will contact the pastor and decide the proper course of action to be taken.

Notifications: The Clerk of Session will notify;


The Elders.

The Deacon Chair.

Penny for Facebook posting and email blast posting.

Polly Walker for her email list posting.

Safety is the issue. While we always wish to operate our facilities on normal schedule,



THANK YOU!

for bringing hope to those in need

Dear Red Cross Supporter,

On behalf of the American Red Cross, thank you for Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church's generous gift of \$6,940.00 on 12/17/2024, which will be applied to Hurricane Helene- North Carolina. Support from companies like yours is truly making an impact in the lives of

PO Box 581887
Charlotte, NC 28258

4600 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28213
P 704-401-1527
F 704-401-1577
lionservices.org

Lions Services

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
1500 Mallard Creek Church Rd. West
Charlotte, NC 28262

December 31, 2024


Dear Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your gift to Lions Services Inc. Your generous support and partnership will directly fund crucial programs and services such as creating jobs for people living with vision loss, assistive technologies, and community support initiatives. These resources are vital for enabling blind and visually impaired individuals to lead more independent and fulfilling lives.

With YOUR support, Lions Services will continue to be a beacon for those affected by vision loss in the Charlotte community for many more years to come. Your support is vital in supporting our mission. Empowering people who are blind to achieve personal and economic independence by providing them vocational rehabilitation and employment opportunities.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for believing in our mission to empower the blind community and enhance their quality of life.

Because of you, we're building a brighter future for our community. Together, we're making a lasting impact!

With gratitude,

Philip Murph
President and CEO

Gift Date: 12/16/2024
Gift Amount: \$500.00

Thank you for your support!!

January 15, 2025 Financial Position

| Year To Date Income | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | \$72.00 |
| WORSHIP OFFERING | \$3,561.00 |
| ONLINE GIVING | \$5,058.00 |
| CELL TOWER INCOME | \$0.00 |
| ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL | \$8,691.00 |

93RD BBQ UPDATE

Thank YOU all!

We could not make this happen without you

Total BBQ Proceeds \$102,601.60

\$25,650.40 - NC Mountain Hurricane Relief

\$76,951.20 - MCPC Building Fund



| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| YTD INCOME | \$8,691.00 |
| YTD EXPENSES | \$40,189.49 |
| Reserves Spent | (\$31,498.49) |

| Contributions | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| January (1/2 a month) | \$8,691.00 |
| Total Contributions | \$8,691.00 |

Items of note from the Stated Session Meeting on January 21, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 P M by Pastor Watkins

Quorum was declared with 11 of 15 elders present.

Received updates on members and friends needing special prayers.

Approved previous session minutes of December 10 and 22, 2024.

Approved Corporation minutes of January 19, 2025.

Approved communion schedule for the first Sunday of each even month, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Read and reviewed Deacon minutes of January 14, 2025.

Approved request by Heritage Room Managers to place a 3 X 5 display case in the Gathering Space. This would be in addition to the permanent cabinet there now.

Asked Clerk to send a note of gratitude to Merle King for covering the expense of removing two dead Oak Trees at the front of the church.

Received December Financial report.

December income exceeded expenses by \$ 71,796.

Year 2024 income exceeded expenses by \$ 55,329.

NOTE: Income includes \$68,175 in "special" income and \$11,972 in "one time" money.

Year 2024 contributions were \$101,226 LESS than Year 2023 contributions

Approved motion to split the 25% barbeque profits of 2024 between Patriot Relief LLC and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (50 / 50). (NC Mountains)

Approved motion to offer Pastor Rob Watkins a one-month Sabbatical in September 2025. FYI: Robs original contract, written seven years ago, stated a three-month Sabbatical in his seventh year (2025). The Admin. Committee, in discussions with Rob, feel a three-month absence from the congregation at this time would not be a good idea. They suggest one month Sabbatical in 2025 and to keep open the discussion of another Sabbatical month in 2026.

Approved motion to staff the following special committees with persons listed.

1. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Becky Wood ***Chair**

Nancy Busch, Julie Mingus

2. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Drew Dowling, Phil Ashley, Mack Downing, Charles Kimrey (cabling)

3. CHILD DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Brian Wasko: Chair, James Killian Sr.: Elder, Bob Oehler: Elder, Barbara Oehler, Leigh Johnson, Jackie Triage parent rep., Erika Miller: parent rep., Kristy Maddux: Director (ex-officio), Priscilla Stephens: Treasurer (ex-officio).

4. BARBECUE COMMITTEE

Charles Kimrey and Bill Wood Co- Chairs

5. CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

James Killian Sr., Bob Oehler, Calvin Caldwell, Larry Oehler

6. SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

7. MCPC ASSISTANCE FUND

Sue Oehler and Bill Penninger

Distributed and reviewed the 2025 Elder Duty Schedule.

Distributed and reviewed the 2025 communion duty schedule.

Reviewed inclement weather procedure.

- Assigned February Sunday Duty: Jamie Garrison, Jack Miles, and Michel Lampalombella

Assigned Elders for Presbytery Meeting on February 8th at First Charlotte James Killian and Becky Wood

MISSION COMMITTEE



Thank you!

MCPC VOLUNTEERS

- packed 152 7-day boxes of food
- completed 4 food pantry orders for UNCC, Huntersville, Ada Jenkins and Mt Carmel food pantries.
- packed an entire order of bread at Nourish Up on Saturday, Jan 25



Backpack Blessings has been a mission of Mallard Creek and Presbyterian Women since 2014, providing food to underprivileged families who might not otherwise have enough to eat each weekend. As the area around our church has grown, so has the need. Initially packing ~20 backpacks weekly for University Meadows and Mallard Creek Elementary Schools, we **often** now supply more than 60 bags of food each week for needy families. We are now spending ~\$700 each week.



The program has always been supported by the generous donations of church members. Due to the growing number of bags, rising

food prices and a number of other factors, funds are now running low. We are at a critical juncture and need additional funds for the program to continue. While there are many worthwhile projects to support – both in and out of the Mallard Creek family – serving our immediate area is one of the best ways to spread Christ's love around us.

Thank you for your support of Backpack Blessings.

Some of the most needed items are:

- ◆ Canned Chicken
- ◆ Hunts Pasta Sauce (24 oz) (any flavor)
 - ◆ Spaghettios (any flavor)
 - ◆ Packages of Ramen Noodles
 - ◆ 1 lb bags of Rice
- ◆ Boxes of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese

We have other items on our Amazon Wish List, and they'll deliver them right to the church!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3E1ZEBUXO8TIF/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

Rise[®] AGAINST HUNGER

By all accounts, this year's Rise Against Hunger event was a resounding success! We had a number of families participating, and were able to pack 60,000 meal kits! Over the past

13 years, we've packed and supplied 213 meal kits that ensure families around the world get the nourishment they need to flourish. Our participation has been able to make a real difference through nutrition programs in places like Vietnam, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the Phillipines!

MCPC had 70 volunteers this week, ranging in age from 6-80+, and that group packed 15,120 kits of soy (protein), rice, vegetables and vitamins. To date, we've hosted 13 events, and have packed a total of 213,000 kits that have been sent all over the world to



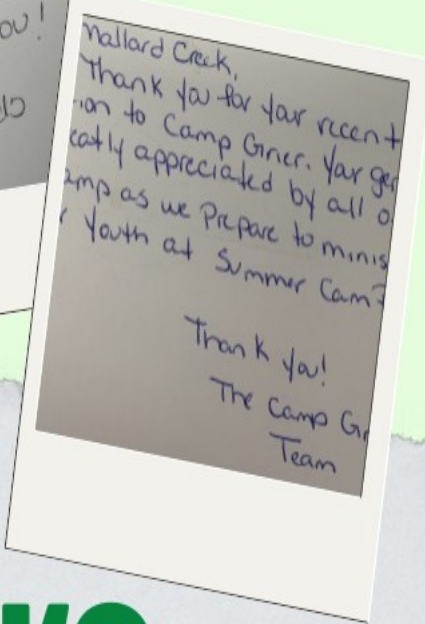
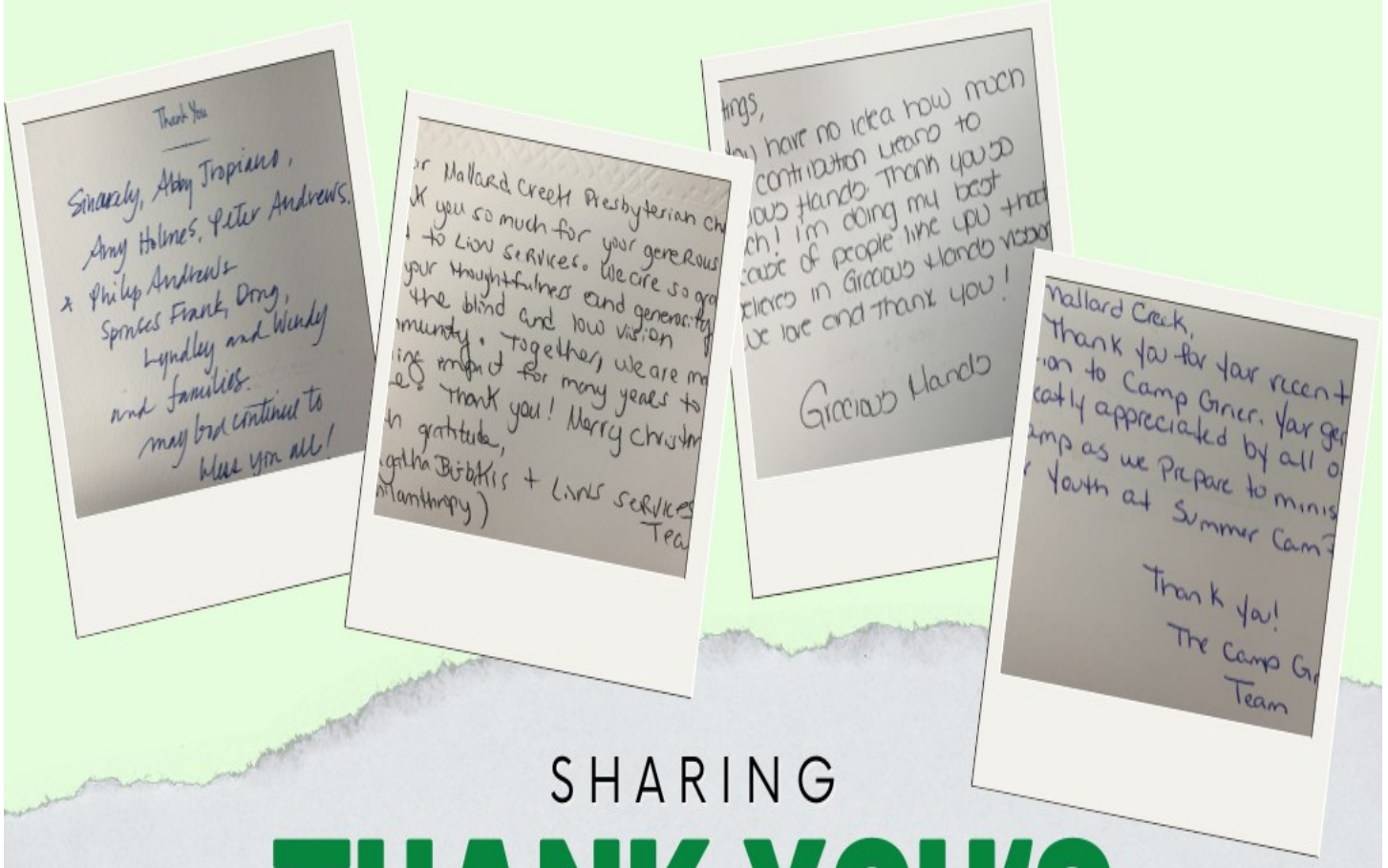
MCPC BENEVOLENCE

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church has a goal of donating at least 10% of General Fund Contributions to charities and other organizations or groups in need.

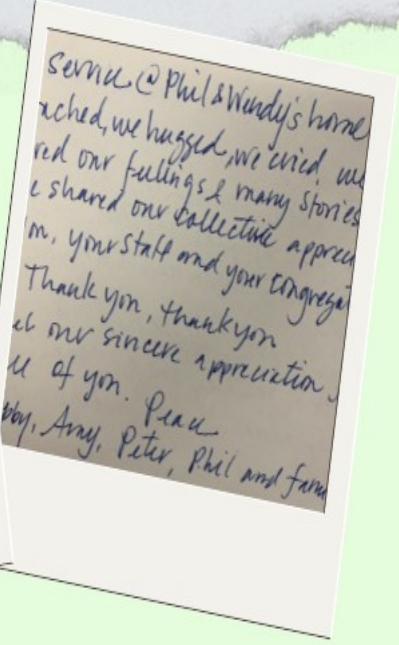
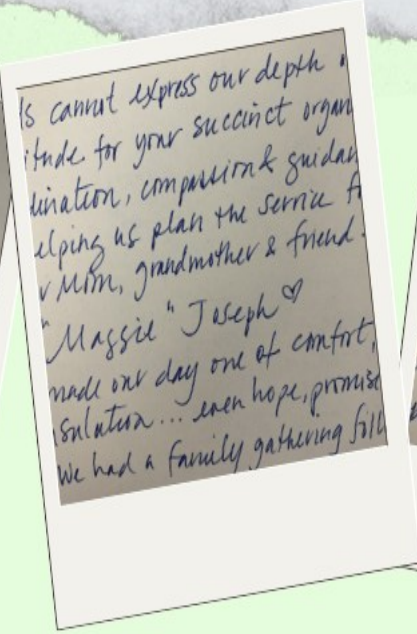
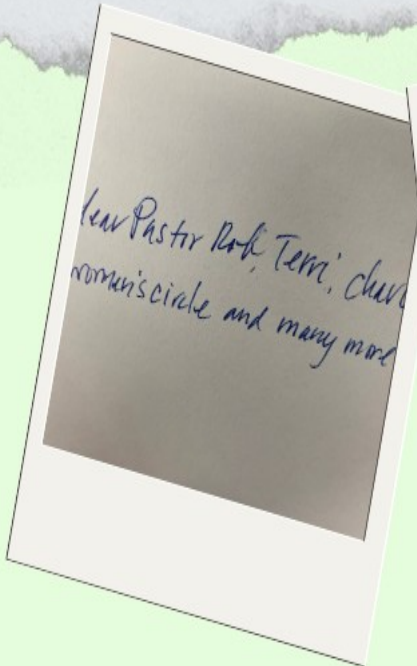
In addition to routine funding of the Charlotte Presbytery and other general funds, MCPC financial support goes to the following organizations:

- **Alexander Youth Network**: Provides quality professional treatment to children with serious emotional and behavioral problems.
- **Backpack Blessings**: Mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children who might otherwise go hungry.
- **Camp Grier**: Since 1952, Camp Grier is an outdoor ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are committed to making outdoor experiences and the gift of the natural world available to all.
- **Crisis Assistance Ministry**: Organized to provide assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.
- **CVAN**: Since 1982, CVAN (Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network) provides safety, shelter, and support for battered women and their children in Cabarrus County, NC.
- **Gracious Hands**: Serves homeless women with children in the Charlotte, NC area, by providing a temporary home, equipped with supportive resources to "love women and children back to life".
- **Lions Blind Services**: The mission of the American Foundation for the Blind is to create a world of no limits for people who are blind or visually impaired.
- **Niner United**: Started in 1965, Niner United is Cooperative Christian's ministry at UNC-Charlotte Their mission is to connect students to God, to others, and to life-changing experiences so that they can live faith-filled lives.
- **Parkside & University Meadows Elementary Schools**: Schools consisting of lower-income student populations and are given Title 1 sponsorship to aid students who are behind or have high chances to fall behind.
- **Rise Against Hunger**: Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies.
- **Room in the Inn**: Since 1996, the Urban Ministry Center has partnered with colleges and congregations for many faiths to open their facilities to provide shelter and food for the homeless.

Jan 2025



SHARING
THANK YOU'S
FROM MISSIONS AND FAMILIES



SCOUTING

through the years at

MCPC

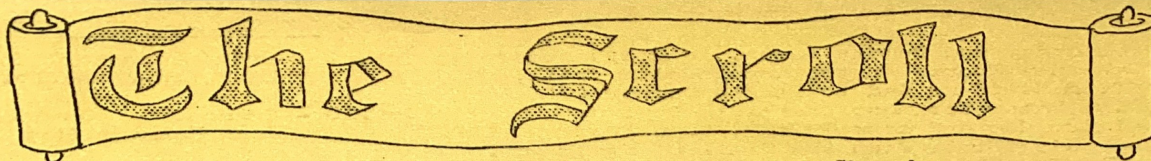
HISTORICAL ROOM UPDATE

Sunday, Feb 9 is Scout Sunday, and the folks who have been working diligently in the Historical Room every week have set up a display in the Gathering Space

You are going to want to check it out!

In addition, they found this Scroll article about Scouting from 1971...how different the Scroll and Scouting looks today!

Sonja Benton, Alan Garrison, Jeff Garrison, Keri Wass



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October, 1971

** BOY SCOUT NEWS **

Saturday and Sunday (Sept. 18 & 19) found the Boy Scouts on the Appalachian Trail, from Newfound Gap to Peck's Corner (via Ice Water Springs, Charlie's Bunion, False Gas and Laurel Top), then from Peck's Corner down the Trail to Smokomont. The fog blew away taking the rain with it, making the weather pleasant and the scenery beautiful. Scouts on the Trail were: Danny Craig, Scott Finney, Alan Garrison, Jeff Garrison, Rick Garrison, Wayne Hammond, Wayne Harrison, Dean Jones, Robbie Littlejohn, Bill Mowry, and Chris Rion. Adults were Wilson Jones, Terry Linker and Alex Garrison.

Families that stayed at Smokomont Camp-ground were the Bill Garrisons, Bain Wilson, Bob and Robin Garrison, Ruby Jones, Janis Linker and Jean Garrison, all catching up on Scout news of happenings during the summer.

Congratulations to Bill Mowry for earning and receiving the God and Country Award in St. Peters Episcopal Church.

Two Scouts made interesting trips. Dean Jones to Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimarron, N. Mexico and Bill Mowry to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan.

Scouts tapped and received into the Order of the Arrow (Scouting's Honor Society) were Danny Craig and Robbie Littlejohn.

Don't forget the paper drive, October 16th.

This is Round-Up-Time if you are eleven and want to be a Scout. See any Scout. He will help you join.

YOUTH GROUP TEEN FELLOWSHIP

February Teen Schedule

- 2-9 Bonnappeteens at 8am, no afternoon meeting
- 2-16 Blanket Making from 4-6pm
- 2-23 Time Capsules from 4-6pm



Bonnappeteens Sunday, February 9 @ 9 am

Where: MCPC Dining Hall

Time : 9am – 9:30 am

What :Teens are cooking breakfast

Why: Monthly fundraiser for Teen Fellowship program at MCPC – donations may be made with cash or check

Mark your calendars for some good eating the 2nd Sunday of each month



Nurture & Grow

YOUTH GROUP

GRADES K-5

SUNDAYS FROM 3-4:30PM

It's time to register for the 2025-2026 preschool year!
 Call 704-549-9741 or email paiget@mallardcreekchurch.org.

MCPC Preschool




♥♥

Valentine's

LUNCH BUNCH MENU

STARTERS

Lots of chocolate




MAIN DISHES

Sing along to the Oldies 🎵
 Hear a Love Story 💕
 Play a wedding game

DESSERTS

Hear some great love jokes 🗣️
 Lots of chocolate




EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH
1:00-2:00

**MEET IN THE GYM AT 1:00 FOR
DIRECTIONS.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FEB 18

Valentine Lunch Bunch

FEB 23

Care Talk: Marriage Enrichment

FEB 27

Preschool Spring Book Fair Begins

MARCH 18

Lunch Bunch

APRIL 5

Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 12

Churchwide Work Day

APRIL 13

Palm Sunday

APRIL 15

Lunch Bunch

APRIL 20

Easter Sunday

APRIL 24

Preschool Spring Fling

APRIL 27

Homecoming Celebration

MAY 7

Bonclarken Retreat

Special Prayers

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Crystal McLaughlin Abernathy | Ken Grimes | Donnie Oehler |
| JW and Vivian Avant | Ben Hatton | Lee Ann Oehler |
| Tom Baker | Jean Helms | Tommy Oehler |
| Linda Benfield | Shirley Hunter | Jenny Parker |
| Sue Bishop | Phyllis Jones | Judith Rankin |
| Jackie Brand | The Family of Lynn Kelley | Hunter Roddey & Family |
| Ann Brown | Betsy Killian | Donna Seaford |
| Bobby Brown | Merle King | Lois Spradley |
| Barbara Carter's daughter | Roy Kinnamon | Earl Thomas |
| Ken and Suggie Christenbury | Stephen Lisi, Jr. (deployed) | Juanita Untz |
| David Clemmer | Jean MacNeil | Myrtle Wall |
| Bill Cochran | Steve Misenheimer | Rusty Wallace & firefighters |
| Guy Eberhart | Judy Monjeau -Sheila Letica's mother | Caroline Williams |
| Brenda Garrison | | |

FEBRUARY OFFICERS ON DUTY

ELDERS:

Harvey Alexander, Jack Miles, Michel Lapalombella

DEACONS:

Phil Ashley, Eric Johnson, Debra Johnson, Rob Moore



2025 March Birthdays



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 Colton Mon- |
| 2 | 3 | 4 Kelly Oehler | 5 | 6 Iris Jordan | 7 | 8 Susan Dove |
| 9 Evelyn De Kam | 10 Vance Reid | 11 George Zevan | 12 Abby Tucker | 13 Christina DeK- | 14 Awah | 15 Todd Oehler |
| 16 James Killian, Sr. | 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! | 18 Lynne DiMarco | 19 | 20 Zeek Garrison | 21 | 22 Andy Stiffel |
| 23 | 24 Carsyn Cooper | 25 Elizabeth Benton | 26 | 27 Rosalee Stillman | 28 Bill Wood Karen Koerth | 29 Caden Clark Lauren Gulley |
| 30 Allison Coore Joy Johnson | 31 | | | | | |

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road
Charlotte, NC 28262



www.mallardcreekchurch.org

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

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