

The Scroll

January 2021

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

Well, we have, at last, turned the page into a new year...

A year ago, none of us had any inkling of what we would pass through in 2020—none, whatsoever.

So, it would be quite silly to try and predict what 2021 will hold. Predictions are about as useful as a parasol in a hurricane.

But what is sure and certain is that the Church—and Mallard Creek Church, in particular—will continue to be the church—the community of Jesus within the world. Our task will be the same—bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to our corner of the world by doing unto others what we would have them to do to us. We will continue to follow the mission statement that Jesus gave us—

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your strength,
all your mind, and all your soul;

and

You shall love your neighbor as yourself...

Or if that is too complicated, Jesus summed it up this way—

Love one another as I have loved you.

That is our work for 2021. We may have to continue to do it in ways that are totally unfamiliar, different, changed, and altered, but the work will be essentially the same.

The good news is that as we align ourselves with Jesus' call and commandments given here, we align ourselves with the power and presence of God. Through that presence, we can and will accomplish so much. We can help to bring the kingdom of God to earth, to our own neighborhood, and with that, help to realize the promises and potential of God's love, through which God made all that is, right here, right now.

That sounds like a pretty promising year to me.

There is a place for everyone in the work to be done. There is room for every voice that has something to say that will help us to be people loving others as Christ loved us. There is more than enough to keep everyone busy as servants of the Lord.

Join with us as we continue to be a light for the world along the busy highways of this city. You may find that it helps spur hope, comfort, and joy in ways that will help us move beyond 2020 and into something brand new, even a taste of the new creation.

Pastor Alison's Care Corner

Christmas has come and gone. Presents have been unwrapped and many of our Christmas trees dragged to the curb or taken apart and stored for another year. Another year has come and gone. Few, if any, of us are sad to see 2020 end.

I distinctly recall my expectation in the late winter of 2020 that the COVID-19 "issue" would quickly come and just as quickly go. It honestly never even crossed my mind that the weeks would turn into months, and the months into a year. It honestly was never even on my radar that our nation would be looking at well over a year before we could let down our guards and breathe easily without our masks. What a year. What a year.

But I do believe, at the risk of sounding pollyannaish, that 2020 brought with it real gifts to some of us, gifts that have the potential to leave us deeply changed. It will be up to us to decide whether we will allow the year to change us for the better. So what are the gifts of the past year?

Granted, balancing homeschooling and work nearly pushed some families over the edge. But the other side of the coin is that families were suddenly thrust into spending unstructured time together. Young families, all too familiar with rushing here and there from activity to activity, were suddenly homebound, many of their children's activities cancelled. One of the young mothers in our church shared with me that her family of four spent more time together in 2020 than they had in years. Wow.

Those of us without children at home were in a similar, but different, circumstance. Suddenly, we were unable to distract ourselves by being out and about, and we had far more time on our hands than we are accustomed to having. For sure, the days became long and at times, boring. But on the other hand, there was the opportunity, the invitation should we accept, to deepen ourselves spiritually, to immerse ourselves in reading and podcasts that would enrich and broaden who we are. There was time to develop a new hobby or to rediscover an old one that we had cast aside.

None of this is to say that 2020 was anywhere even close to being an easy year, and we need not deny its difficulty. Some in our own church died from the virus. Others of us contracted the virus. No, we need not deny the difficulty of the past year. But as with any difficulty, there is nearly always a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that no darkness will ever overcome. It may seem that the darkness will never lift, and yet it does. The darkness always lifts.

Here's to 2020! May we continue to follow the Light.



Elizabeth King
Deane Davis
Randall Montgomery
Laurel Petty, extended family of Mack Downing
Jimmy Marcus, brother of Rachel Rodden
Tom Lawing, stepson of Nell
Linda, sister in law of Nancy Busch
Donald Buff, brother in law of Jimmy Walker

Warner Marshall
Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian
Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas

Ann Brown
Bernice Martin
Debbie Hunter
Brian Mitchell, brother of Tommy
Betty Morris, sister of Earlene Craver
David, brother of Nancy Busch
Matthew Sheehan, grandson of Carolyn

Kenneth Helms
Margaret Hatton
Carrie Hanes

We pray for national and world leaders, the men and women who are serving in the Armed Forces, their families, and those who are deployed: Col. Cristina Moore - LTC Rob Byars - Austin Powers (Nat. Guard) - Major Trevor Sutherland (Air Nat. Guard) - STG2 Hunter Holland - Master SGT Rick Treadway - SGT Malcolm Allen - LTJG Morgan Whitmore, Lt. Alex Busch and PV2 Stephen Lisi



Happy 2021 to our church family! We hope that each of you had a blessed holiday season and we pray that 2021 is a better year for everyone!

Great things are happening at MCPCP! We would love to have your child join us for a great educational experience in a loving, Christian environment! We still have a few spots open for this year and registration for the 2021-2022 school year will start on January 25th! We offer classes for children who turn 2 through 5-years-old on or before August 31st, Monday through Thursday from September to May! This year, we will offer a virtual tour of our preschool on our website and a few in-person tours after hours that will be by appointment only. For more information, please email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org or kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or call the preschool office at 704-549-9741.

Thank you to everyone who supported our mask fundraiser! It's not too late...if you would like to place an order, please email or call us.

Ms. Monie's Virtual Bible Stories will kick-off 2021 with stories about Daniel in the Lion's Den, Adam and Eve, Paul and Silas, and The Lost Sheep. The children will also visit with Pastor Rob to learn more about the church.

Our Bible verse for January is : "Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17

*Merry Christmas from our family to yours!!! Happy New Year, too!
Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant*

Upcoming Circle Meetings

Welcome to a New Presbyterian Women's Circle Year. All women in the church have been assigned to a circle, but are welcome to attend any that they wish. Each meeting is centered around a Bible study lesson. Didn't read? Don't have a book? Don't worry, come anyway! Aside from the lessons, there is typically a discussion about mission projects or special events. Please reach out to the women listed below if you have any questions.

Circle of Anna – No circle in January (Polly Caldwell - cacpwc@bellsouth.net, Linda Apolinar - edlin1025@yahoo.com)

Circle of Mary – January 5, 2021 10:30 am in the Gathering Space (Jane Isenhower – isenhowerj@bellsouth.net - Linda Wallace - beach68@bellsouth.net, Sally Tyler - tylerstmt@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – January 4, 2021 7:00 ZOOMc (Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – January 4, 2021 7:00 on ZOOM (Sue Oehler - csoehler@bellsouth.net)



Room in the Inn is canceled this season BUT the needs of our homeless neighbors are not.

To read more about how the winter sheltering needs will be met, click [HERE](#)

During the months of December, January, & February we will collect items for the homeless and deliver them to Roof Above (formally Urban Ministry). You may bring them to worship service or drop them off in the church office. If you have any questions please contact Rachel Rodden: rachrodden@gmail.com or 704.577.2837

JANUARY

-NEW MEN'S SOCKS

-NEW MEN'S BOXER BRIEFS (size M, L, XL, XXL)

FEBRUARY

-NEW TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS

-TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES (shampoo, shower gel, razors, small cans of shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer)



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

Sunday Afternoon Events in January 2021

| Date | Group | Event (Sundays 4-6pm at church) |
|---------|-------|--|
| 1/10/21 | YC | Everyone's Birthday Party & Gift Exchange |
| 1/17/21 | T | Trivia Night |
| 1/24/21 | YC | Bible Story & Craft & Mission (collecting new men's socks and boxer briefs for RITI) |
| 1/31/21 | T | Mission & Prayer Service for Room in the Inn (collecting new men's socks and boxer briefs) |

We are still social distancing, wearing masks, and trying to minimize groups using the same space on the same day, so Youth Club and Teen Fellowship will meet on alternate Sundays for the foreseeable future this spring.

MONTREAT 2021 UPDATE!

The hope is that Montreat 2021 will happen in-person this year!

Montreat Middle School: July 14-18, 2021

Montreat High School: July 25-31, 2021

If your teenager would like to attend or you would like to chaperone, please let Andrea know! If you are interested but need more time to think about it, please let Andrea know that too. She would like to get a rough idea of numbers for registration.

Want to volunteer to hang out with the greatest Youth Club and Teen Fellowship in the world???

Andrea desperately needs volunteers to help out with Youth Club and Teen Fellowship for Spring 2021. If your child or teen participates in these programs, please sign up to chaperone at least one or two Sunday afternoon activities in the Spring semester. Please reach out to Andrea if interested. These programs cannot happen without your help!

Session Highlights

1. Heard faith statements from each officer elect and afterwards the session was given the opportunity to ask questions:

Deacon Elect

Phil Ashley, Tom Baker, Andrew Coore, Perry Deaton, Sheila Lettca, Robin McCraw, Allston Oehler,
Wendy Oehler White

Elder Elect

Harvey Alexander, Tom Fuller, Kristy Maddux, Cristina Moore, Rodney Smith, Becky Wood

2. Approved motion to sustain the faith statement of each officer elect as part of the exam.

Approved motion to sustain the entire exam as a whole and to ordain and/or install the officers elect
Cristina Moore and Perry Deaton at 10:00am service on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 and the remain-
ing officers elect at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 10, 2021

Elder:

To be installed: Harvey Alexander, Tom Fuller, Rodney Smith, Becky Wood

To be ordained & installed: Kristy Maddux, Cristina Moore

Deacon:

To be installed: Phil Ashley, Perry Deaton, Robin McCraw

To be ordained & installed: Tom Baker, Andrew Coore, Sheila Lettica, Allston Oehler, Wendy
Oehler White

4. Approved funding \$2,500 to Second Harvest Food Bank
5. Approved funding \$1,000 to UNCC Food Pantry (Jamil Niner Student Pantry)
6. Approved motion to tentatively elect Andy Spittle as Clerk of Session for 2021 by acclamation
7. November Financial Report

[November 2020 collections were \\$8,066 MORE THAN November 2019](#)

YTD 2020 collections were \$39,620 LESS THAN YTD 2019

November 2020 collections were \$4,182 MORE THAN November expenses

YTD 2020 collections were \$67,687 LESS THAN YTD expenses

YTD 2020 benevolences paid \$4,325 less than YTD 2019

YTD 2020 committee expenses \$64,672 less than YTD 2019

YTD 2020 salaries paid \$53,158 more than YTD 2019

YTD 2020 expenses \$15,595 less than YTD 2019

| OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP UPDATE | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday School | \$5.00 |
| Worship Offering | \$45,338.69 |
| Online Giving | \$11,829.00 |
| TOTAL Offering | \$57,172.69 |
| Total Offering YTD | \$488,320.58 |
| Total Expenses YTD | \$556,007.15 |
| Under for Year | \$67,686.57 |



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
|  | | <h1>February Birthdays</h1> | | | |  | |
|  | 1 Wyn Pearson Paul Snyder | 2 Linda Untz Bill Penninger Darrell Thomas Wendy White Lily Larkin | 3 Suzanne Curtis | 4 Kathleen Good Clay Grubb Ashton Blevins | 5 Amber Cooper Taylor Wass | 6 Marshall Love | |
| 7 Braden Wallace | 8 Nina Brown | 9 Laura Pelfrey | 10 | 11 Al Wilkinson | 12 Linda Apolinar Mary Kostrzynski Rosie Clark | 13 Aprille Mitchell | |
| 14 Jamie Brown | 15 Philip Wescott Nathan Benfield Nicole Scott | 16 Patsy Oehler Rachel Rodden Kelly Semon Owen Lazarus Tolby Coore | 17 | 18 Gray Brookshire Jimmy Brown, Jr | 19 Bob Hamilton Ned Baker Whitney Oehler AJ Alexander | 20 Ashley Rose | |
| 21 Erin Gullede Tripp Moore III Sarah DeArmon Bret MacNeil | 22 Stephanie Barrett | 23 Carlotta Doran Laura Andreasen Dalton Oehler | 24 Drew Dowling JD Oehler | 25 Laney Brookshire | 26 Ralph Brand Kim Tucker Kaleb Tucker Joshuah Serepca Elizabeth Fuller | 27 Evan Lazarus | |
| 28 Jaret Oehler | | | | | | | |

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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Charlotte, NC 28262



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The Rev. Rob Watkins

The Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins

Mrs. Andrea Thomas

Mr. David Barnaba

Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Mrs. Cathy Marlor

Mrs. Shawn Watkins

Senior Pastor

Parish Associate

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Director of Music

Preschool Director

Financial Secretary

Administrative Assistant