

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

January 2024



From Pastor Rob

As 2024 begins, what are you most hopeful for? What are you expecting? What do you hope will change? What do you hope remains the same? What possibilities do you see ahead? What commitments do you hope to keep?

A new year brings all manner of question—it is a blank slate in so many ways.

But we also know that it is a continuation of all that has come before.

Our stories continue.



If you look at those questions at the opening of this article, you see that many of them arise from the continuing story of our lives rather than from a sharp beginning when nothing has been done. Our lives shape and form us. They teach us the things that are important, but they also teach us the things we want to leave behind—in some case, with the additional hope that we will never have to repeat them. Our lives bring us all the experiences that we count as wisdom, but they also show us the things that are utter folly.

The key seems to be being able to use the blank spaces in the new year to refine the filled in spots from the last. We can reflect and review last year (and even the collection of years before), find those things to build on and find those things we need to release. We can take what we have learned and put it to good use as we plan what to do this year.

This observation holds true for the life of faith, as well.

Reflect on the past year—in what moments did you feel closest to God? The farthest away? What might we do to maintain that communion with God better this year? What things worked really well as we walked with God? What things, not so much? Allow yourself the space to explore and discover how God might be using this year for your growth and deepening in your walk with God.

My thought is that we if we engage in this practice, all our other questions about the new year will fall more readily into place. If we can build upon the firm foundation of our connection to God, we can find all our other connections becoming stronger and more beneficial for one and all.

So, my prayer for the new year is that it be one of blessing, discovery, wonder, and deepening. May God bless you and keep you always.
Amen.

Hunter's Thoughts

A New Year! New opportunities - new challenges - new experiences - new things to learn. January always brings changes of one sort or another. And for me and Susan, there are many changes this year. I wanted to let you know a little bit more about what is going on with us.

First of all, I'm not leaving MCPC! I love being part of this community and family. But my role here is changing since I am now working full-time with LifeShare (more on what LifeShare is in a moment). While I have been working 30 hours a week at MCPC, starting in January, my role will be for 10-15 hours a week with the church. And my main focus with that will be the Congregational Care - visiting and calling. I will be in the Sunday service just about every other week as I will be at LifeShare on the alternate Sundays. (I hope to be able to schedule MCPC any Sunday there is a special meal!) So you will still see me - just not as frequently. And my daily schedule will vary from week to week, but the church office will always know when I will be available.

Many of you have asked, "What is LifeShare?" The best way to start is with a quote from the website (www.LifeShareCarolinas.org):



North Carolina

"LifeShare Carolinas serves as the link between generous donors and those waiting for lifesaving organ, eye, and tissue transplants. We are one of 56 organ procurement organizations (OPO) in the US."

Only about 1% of people who die in the U.S. each year will meet the criteria to be an organ donor - it depends on many medical criteria and on how the end of life happens. But many more of us are able to be tissue donors - one tissue donor can help as many as 75 people with various conditions. For example, I have donor bone in my neck where I had to have two vertebrae fused together in 2013. Our job with LifeShare is to make sure we identify every person who has the opportunity, see if they have previously registered to be donor, and let their family know of their choice or give them the option of making such a generous gift.

My title is Family Services Coordinator. We are the ones who present the options to the families at the time of death. And then whether the family chooses to donate or not, we guide and support the family through that time. As hard as some days can be, there is a real blessing in seeing the generosity and hope that can come from the midst of some of life's hardest moments. Please feel free to ask me to better explain what I am doing if it's still confusing - I am more than willing to share more about what I do day to day.

So that is me, but I also teased that Susan has some big changes. After 9 years as the chaplain at Abernathy Laurels - a United Church of Christ continuing care retirement facility in Newton - her last day there is 12/31/2023. She has loved being there and leaves on a high note, but she will not miss commuting an hour each way every day. Going forward, she is building up the pastoral counseling practice that she has been doing one day a week for many years. She will now be doing that full time. She works through the Counseling Center at Charlotte and their offices are located at Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte. She is a great counselor - in my completely unbiased opinion - and she is passionate about the work.

So you're not rid of me yet, even if my role is somewhat modified. I truly feel blessed to be part of this wonderful community and congregation!

Mallard Creek will be hosting its 12th Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Saturday, February 3 at 9:00am in the Dining Hall. We'll assemble 15,000 meals that will be distributed to third world countries. Unlike some other mission events, this is a great family activity; children of all ages can help, even those with limited mobility.

It is extremely important to register in advance for your attendance and we need a minimum of 40 volunteers. Doing so will both save time the morning of the event and allow us to plan accordingly. Please use this link:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/MCPC2024>

To date we've packaged 183,042 meals over the course of 11 events and those we prepared last May were shipped to ADRA-Madagascar, the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, in August.



If you've joined us before, you already know what a fun, fulfilling activity this is and how we can pack this many meals in just a couple of hours! If you haven't, bring the entire family on February 3 and witness how we can make a difference in other parts of the world.

Rise Against Hunger just celebrated its 25th year, having been fulfilling its commitment to end hunger across the globe since 1998, coordinating the distribution of food and other life-saving aid to crisis-burdened areas around the world. This is accomplished through popular community-supported meal packaging programs such as our upcoming event.

Rise Against Hunger distributes its meals through feeding programs operated by partner organizations in developing countries which promote education, encourage children to attend school, improve the health and nutrition of students, address gender inequalities, spur economic growth, combat child labor, and create a platform for tackling global issues. In addition to supporting school feeding programs, Rise Against Hunger also provides meals in response to crisis relief.

Learn more about the organization by visiting their website: www.riseagainsthunger.org.



THANK YOU to everyone who supported us in one way or another in 2023 and special



thanks to Merle and Elizabeth King and Lois Spradley for their monetary donations to our preschool program throughout the school year! We cannot thank everyone enough and are grateful for each of you and appreciate your continued support!

The month of December was busy with holiday activities, including a visit from Santa, celebrating Jesus' birthday, classroom Christmas celebrations, a Teacher Christmas Luncheon, and our Christmas Program. **THANK YOU to Christina deKam, Maria Menconi, Nicole Stillman, and Jackie Tiece for our amazing staff t-shirts and luncheon they provided for our staff!**

Two of our Pre-K classes went on field trips to the Children's Theatre to see the "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and the other two classes visited the Sea Life Aquarium. **A big THANK YOU to Harvey Alexander for driving the students and teachers in the minibus on each of these field trips!**

Our Christmas Program turned out great thanks to Robin Fuller, who directed the play, our preschool staff, and many volunteers. **THANK YOU, Harvey Alexander, and Mack Downing for taking care of the sound and Monie Alexander, Josh Ashley, Riley Ashley, Jane Geracimos, Patty Hawks, Bonnie Hodges, Karen Kosmoski, Charlotte McConnell, Lee McConnell, Linda Wallace, and Becky Wood for helping with the program!** It was a wonderful way to bring our church and preschool families together to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

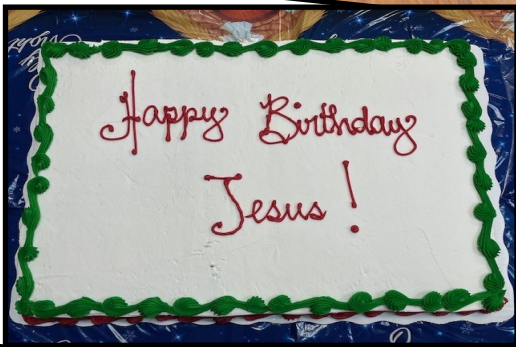
In December, we collected items for the Homebound Meals on Wheels people and were able to fill eleven boxes/bags for them. Thank you for helping us with this worthwhile cause!

We are excited for the new year! God has blessed us with full classrooms, waiting lists for each age group, wonderful teachers, generous preschool parents, church members, and so much more! We are so grateful and look forward to this new year!

This month our students will learn about winter, do fun winter activities, and will meet with Pastor Rob in the church sanctuary to learn all about our church.

REGISTRATION for the 2024-2025 school year will begin on January 22nd. We would love to have your child/grandchild join us next year! The deadline for registration for church members is February 15th. Email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org, kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org, or call 704-549-9741, if you would like more information or to sign-up for a tour of the preschool.

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



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

January 2024 Youth Club Schedule:

<u>Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1/7	Everyone's Birthday party
1/14	New Year Lesson and Games
1/21	Psalms 139:14- Unique like a snowflake (younger kids color and use snowflake stickers and older kids make a snowflake. Snack- pretzels and marshmallows to make snowflakes
1/28	Service project or Backpack blessings and make prayer cards

January 2024 Teen Fellowship Schedule:

<u>Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1/7	New Year Lesson and Games
1/14	TBD
1/21	TBD
1/28	TBD

January - Dec 15, 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION	
Year to Date income	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$1,732.34
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$293,054.74
ONLINE GIVING	\$138,442.51
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$31,442.69
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$484,672.28
YTD INCOME	\$484,672.28
YTD EXPENSES	\$590,422.08
Reserves Spent	(\$105,749.80)

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	\$41,003.00
Dec (1/2 a month)	\$31,180.00
Total Contributions	\$453,229.59

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

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children
born in one's youth. Psalm 127:4

Looking for Youth and Teens

Looking for Youth and Teens. Come Join in fun, bible lessons and sometimes a meal. Learning how get closer to God is a lifelong journey. For teenagers growing closer to God require growing the relationship with God



2024 Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Budget

On October 17, 2023 the MCPC Session adopted our budget for the year 2024. The figures are listed below. Our pledge to work outside MCPC will remain at 10% of our weekly offering receipts to the general fund in 2024. This should total about \$60,607 and is shown in the benevolence section of the budget. The work within our church is done by our committees and their budget approvals are listed next. Projected committee expenses are \$264,173 or about 43.5% of the total budget. The third section of our budget is salaries and employee benefits. This section totals \$282,490. The employee salaries and benefits for 2024 make up about 46.5 %. **NOTE THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE THE PARRISH ASSOCIATE OR THE DCE POSITION.** These positions are currently open or partially staffed.

The terms of call for the senior pastor will need to be approved by the congregation in January 2025.

To fund the 2024 budget we will again need the generous support of ALL MCPC members

Your officers wish to thank you for your continued financial support. Any budget questions may be given to the Finance Committee. Thank you again for being a faithful supporter of the LORD's work at MCPC.
The Loan on the Gathering Space was paid off in 2022.

A. BENEVOLENCES (10 % of regular offerings)

GENERAL BENEVOLENCE

5001 Unified budget	
5001.01 Charlotte Presbytery	7200.00
5001.02 Synod of Mid-Atlantic	460.00
5001.03 General Assembly	3920.00
5002.01 Youngs	3600.00
5002.03 Presby. World Missions	3600.00
5003 Theological education	1000.00
5004 Presbyterian Psych Services	2000.00
5005 Session benevolence fund	400.00

Total General Benevolences

22,180.00

OTHER BENEVOLENCES

5052 Alexander Children Center	3000.00
5056 Crisis Assistance Ministry	5000.00
5075 Lions Blind Services	1000.00
5076 UNICEF	0.00
5077 Strategic Partnerships	
5077.01 Stop Hunger NOW	6000.00
5077.02 Camp Grier	5000.00
5077.05 Parkside & University Meadows & MC Elem.	4500.00
5077.07 CVAN	1000.00
5077.09 Niner United	1500.00
5077.11 Room In The Inn	500.00
5077.1 Backpack Blessings	500.00
5077.12 Gracious Hands	2500.00

Total Other Benevolences

30,500.00

MISSIONS

5102 Mission Trip(s)	6500.00
5105 Local Mission Project(s)	2000.00

Total Missions

8500.00

5006 Undesignated (estimated)	-573.00
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B. COMMITTEE EXPENSES

50662.59 97100.29 105748.84

TOTAL BENEVOLENCES

60,607.00

I. YOUTH AND CHILDREN Committee	24,200.00
II. FELLOWSHIP Committee	8,200.00

III. EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL NUTURE Committee	6,175.00		
IV. FINANCE Committee	200.00		
V. WORSHIP Committee	9,350.00		
VI. ADMINISTRATIVE Committee	44,550.00		
VII. PROPERTY Committee	164,048.00		
VIII. CONGREGATIONAL CARE Committee	1,800.00		
IX. MISSION Committee			
see items under benevolences			
X. CONNECTIONS Committee	5,650.00		
TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES	<u>264,173.00</u>		
7001 Senior Pastor			
7001.01 Salary	58,206.00		
7001.02 Housing	45,000.00		
7001.03 Social Security	7,895.00		
7001.04 Education Allowance	2,000.00		
7001.05 Auto Allowance	2,500.00		
7001.06 Pension Benefits 8.5%	8,773.00		
7001.07 Disability 1.5%	1,548.00		
7001.08 Medical 27% to 29%	29,930.00		
7001.14 Phone /Data Allowance	1,200.00		
7001.09 Dental Insurance	905.00		
Vision	95.00		
Total Senior Pastor	158,052.00		
7060 DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN MINISTRIES			
7060.01 Salary			
7060.03 Social Security			
7060.04 Education Allowance			
7060.05 Auto Allowance			
Total Director of Youth and Children			
IV. OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES			
7110.01 Parrish Associate	Salary	BY HOUR	
7110.04 Parrish Associate	Education	by Voucher	
	Auto Allow-		
7110.05 Parrish Associate	ance	I R S rate	
7120 Admin. Assist.	Salary		37,048.00
Admin. Assist.	Education		500.00
7140 Music Director	Salary		29,916.00
7145 Assistant to the music director			10,200.00
	Salary--		
7150 Organist	TEMPS		5,200.00
7160 Financial Manager	Salary		26,489.00
Financial Manager	Education		500.00
7180 Website Administrator			2,000.00
7190 Nursery Workers			5,050.00
7195 Payroll Taxes			7,535.00
Total other employee expenses			<u>124,438.00</u>
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS			<u>282,490.00</u>
TOTAL BUDGET			607,270.00

Backpack Blessings is feeding 81 children weekly from Parkside Elementary and between 80 and 100 children from University Meadows when food is needed.

Our ability to continue this program is only possible because of your generous food and monetary donations.

If you'd like to support this program through a donation, please make checks payable to MCPC, noting "Backpack Blessings" on the memo line. Once again, your support is greatly appreciated.

The January 16

Lunch Bunch

We will have a special treat with **Rob and Cristina Moore** sharing their pictures and stories with us from their **Holy Land trip**. You won't want to miss this special time!

Please contact Margaret Hatton or Jimmy Walker



If you enjoy singing, consider joining our **Choir**. We are looking for people to help make a joyful noise.



Beginning in 2024 – all contributions for Angel Tree and Backpack Blessings should be made payable to MCPC (please note the change - NOT Presbyterian Women). They may be mailed to the church, dropped in the collection plate or designated online.
Thank you

**THANK YOU
ALL
VERY MUCH**

A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday January 21, 2024 at 10:15 in the Sanctuary

The agenda for this meeting includes—

1. The annual meeting of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, inc., as required by the state
2. A report from Session on the state of the church
3. A report from the Finance Committee on our current financial picture
4. Approving changes to the Terms of Call for the Pastor
5. Electing the at-large members of the Nominating Committee for 2024—those people are:

Christina Moore
Andy Spittle
Kim Tucker
Linda Wallace



We are found that the church directory many phone numbers, addresses and emails are incorrect.

PLEASE check with the church office if we need to make this changes.



Thank you.



Special Prayers



Blanche Hodges– Aunt in law of Bonnie	Tommy Oehler	Linda Benfield	Donny Brown
The Montgomery Family	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	Bobby Brown
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	Leslie Hatton
Joey Munday– Mack’s friend	Lynn Davidson	Elizabeth King	Dale McLaughlin
JW and Vivian Avant	Mary Snow	Betsy Killian	Teddy Preslar
Lois Spradley’s granddaughter, Danika	Dee Dee Larkin (Linda Wallace’s daughter)	Ginny Brooks	
Leslie Taylor-Nancy Busch sister in law	Hailey Busch - daughter in law of Nancy & Tom Busch	Claudia Perez	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
				1 Wyn Pearson Paul Snyder	2 Linda Untz Bill Penninger 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 Dalton Martin	9 Laura Pelfrey	10 Terri Smith
11 Al Wilkinson	12 Linda Apolinar Mary Kostrzynski Rosie Clark	13 Aprille Mitchell	14 Jamie (Brown) Clay	15 Nicole Scott	16 Patsy Oehler Kelly Semon Owen Lazarus Tolby Coore	17
18 Gray Brookshire Jimmy Brown, Jr	19 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	26 Ralph Brand Kim Tucker Kaleb Tucker Joshuah Serepca (Joye) Elizabeth Fuller	27 Evan Lazarus	28 Jaret Oehler	29		

Elder duty for January: Perry Deaton, Nancy Busch, Suzanne Curtis

Deacon duty for January : Leigh Johnson, Terri Garrison, Karen Kosmoski, Tracy Tucker, Jarret Garrison

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

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