

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

We turn the page into a new year.

I think many of us are praying that 2023 will be different and better than the previous few.

There is a wonderful grace that comes with a new year. It truly is a blank slate. I know some of us already have things scheduled for the year—things we are looking forward to and things we already wish weren't there, like surgeries, for instance—but, overall, the new year is just that—new.



A lot of folks begin the year by making resolutions—promising to themselves and maybe a few others things they want to change about themselves in this new year. Others do not lift it to the level of resolution, but they do set goals they hope to achieve. We want to see some positive change in our lives—things that enable us to feel more like we are being the people we were born to be. We want to see some signs of growth—that we are deepening, gaining wisdom, and becoming more of what we want to be.

At the beginning of a new year, everything still seems possible. There is so much potential.

We can work to ensure that more becomes reality by practicing a few spiritual disciplines that offer us strength, encouragement, hope, and comfort.

Begin with prayer—offer to God the things you want to do with this year, inviting God to be with you.

Find people with whom to share the journey—a community offers us support, strength, and the comfort of knowing we are not alone. Join a Sunday School class, join the choir, join a Circle—find some community within the church to offer you the hope of others.

Come to worship—this weekly pitstop offers us refreshment, renewal, recharging, and direction for the week and work ahead.

Add to it taking advantage of the online resources offered during the week—Tuesday Reflections for a dose of the Spirit, Midweek Prayer for a breather, and others.

Become involved in some project or mission—the simple act of serving becomes a means by which to discover our own gifts for living.

Try it and see. Blessings to all for the coming year.

Hunter's Thoughts

I have been thinking a lot about the new year. There are fresh possibilities! There are new things to experience! Opportunities arise that have not been thought of before! And, yes, the future can be somewhat scary as well.

I have been thinking about it in particular because each of the last three years has been so completely different from the one before. Each year has brought things that were never expected. Each year has seen changes and adjustments that were never anticipated.

When I think back to one year ago and then try to imagine one year from now, I quickly find myself overwhelmed.

Then I was reading one of the Advent scriptures from Revelations 21. In verse 5 we read, "See, I am making all things new." At the risk of placing a meaning to this passage that doesn't necessarily fit, I found myself pondering the idea of God through Christ making everything new. Particularly as we have just celebrated the birth of Christ - Immanuel - "God with us", it feels appropriate to observe the brand new beginnings opening up.

I'm afraid my natural tendency is to either feel regret about something in the past or anxiety about something in the future. I read a quote by D.D. Barant the other day - "I've got a bad case of the 3:00 a.m. guilts - you know when you lie in bed awake and replay all those things you didn't do right? Because, as we all know, nothing solves insomnia like a nice warm glass of regret, depression, and self-loathing." Truer words were never spoken! And when it comes to anxiety about the future, I always think of my friend, Lyle, who was from deep in rural Alabama, when he used to say, "My Uncle Hiram says the worst part of any job is the dreadin' of it." And again, that is so true!

But God is "making all things new" right now - in the present moment - freely given to each and every one of us. The present - a gift of the moment - with no regrets or expectations - just the love of God through Christ "making all things new." Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!

New Year's Resolution



2023



Happy New Year!!!

THANK YOU to everyone in our preschool, church community, and those in our surrounding community who supported us in one way or another in 2022!

We are grateful for each of you and for your generosity to our preschool program! Your generosity

will help us continue to make improvements to our classrooms, playground, etc. and we cannot thank you enough!

The children enjoyed many holiday activities throughout the month of December, including a visit from Santa and celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Each of our Pre-K classes also attended Children's Theatre to see the "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." **THANK YOU, Mr. Harvey Alexander**, for driving the minibus to and from each performance for us!

A big THANK YOU to Mack Downing for his sound expertise and Harvey and Monie Alexander for helping Ms. Robin and some of our staff re-enact the story of Jesus' birth during Children's Church last month! A lot of our preschool parents attended so it was a wonderful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with everyone before Christmas break!

Our 2's and 3's classes learned about giving last month by collecting items for CVAN and the Gracious Hands Transitional House.

THANK YOU to parents who donated items! We appreciate your support!

2023 is already looking good, as God has blessed us with full classrooms, long 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 year!

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

REGISTRATION for the 2023-2024 school year will begin on January 23rd.

The registration deadline for church members is February 9th. Email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741, if you would like more information or to sign-up for a tour of the preschool. We would love to have your child join us next year!

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

Congratulations to Kaleb and Abby Tucker on the birth of their daughter:

Rosie Reese Tucker born on Wednesday December 14th 2022

Grandparents: Tracy and Kim Tucker.

Great Grandparent: Doris Dearmon



Donnie and Susie Oehler
(New Address)
115 Amble Road
Olin NC 28660

Phone numbers are still the same.

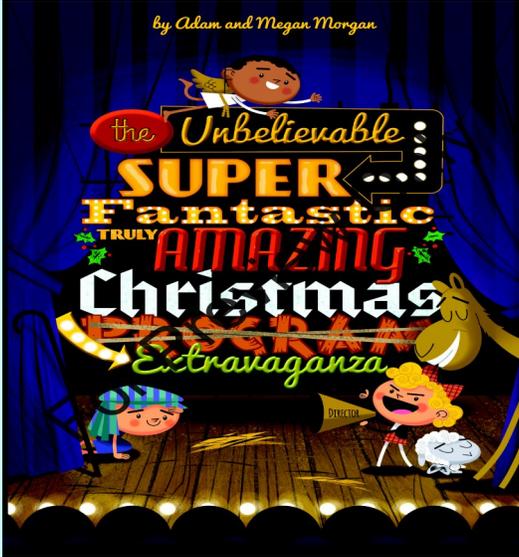




Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

January 2023

THANK YOU to Tara Barnaba for stepping in and directing this year's Youth Christmas Program! It was great to have you fill in for Andrea and we really appreciate all that you did to make it such a huge success! **THANK YOU to David**



Barnaba, too, for conducting and producing another **AWESOME Youth Christmas Program this year and to Andrea Thomas for selecting this great script.** Each of the actors and singers were amazing and we appreciate the time and commitment that each person put into making this such a great performance for everyone to enjoy!

We cannot wait to see what you all do for Christmas this year!

Thank you,

Members of the MCPC Youth and Children's Committee

Lunch Bunch program for
January 17, 2023

Lisa Wallace, Public Affairs Specialist

from the Social Security Administration will be joining us as our speaker on **January 17.**

She will be giving us updates on any changes that might be coming from Social Security and perhaps answer questions we may have.

Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesdays of each month, September-May. Please mark your calendars for these great get-togethers.






Kathy Robinson died on Friday, 12/23/2022 after a difficult illness.
 Kathy and her daughter, Janet Dalelio, joined Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church shortly before the Covid shut-down.
 At this point, there is no local service planned.
 Please keep Janet in your thoughts and prayers.

with deepest
Sympathy



Thank you to all that contributed to the angel tree.
 With your help we were able to help 131 children this year.

Elder duty for January: Tom Fuller, Mack Downing, Alan Garrison
Deacon duty for January: Jackie Brand, Terri Garrison, Karen Kosmoski, Tracy Tucker, Jarret Garrison.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------|
| Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore | Elizabeth King | Bobby Brown | Caroline Williams |
| Frances Christenbury | Shirley Hunter | Cecil Massey | Donna Seaford |
| Kenneth Helms | Juanita Untz | Roy Kinnamon | Elaine Lord |
| Bernice Martin | Ruby Downing | Dennis Lord | Guy Eberhart |
| Andy Marcus - brother of Rachel Rodden | Donnie Oehler | Mildred Grubb | Jenny Cochran |
| Pat Smith - mother of Mary Baker | Sharon Benfield | Katherine Lockhart - mother of Keri Wass | |
| LaVern Winter - father of Tammy Alford | Suggie Christenbury | Joana Lovette | Cy Alexander |
| Chris Taylor - cousin of Teddy Preslar | Dale McLaughlin | Ann Brown | Kathy Robinson |
| Scott Carriker - friend of Chris Mingus | Dorothy Johnson, mother of Debbie Dowling | | |
| Janet Dalelio on the death of her mother, Kathy Robinson | | | |
| Harry and Margaret Kirk- Monie Alexander parents | | | |

Special Prayers



Circle of Mary Anna



The Circle of Mary Anna will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 10:30 in the Garrison/Martin Class.

Lunch will follow at Jason's Deli, Concord Mills.

Bobbie Misenheimer 704-609-2805

RSVP BMisenheimer@Bellsouth.net



AMERICAN RED CROSS



Thank you to all who donated at the 12/10 blood drive.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to collect 15 pints which will affect 45 lives!

Special shout out to Ruby Wallace for assisting with this month's drive!

Any youth who need community service hours, please feel free to reach out.

We will have 2023 dates set soon.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h2 style="color: blue; font-family: cursive;">February Birthdays</h2>						
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 Dalton Martin	9 Laura Pelfrey	10	11 Al Wilkinson	12 Linda Apolinar Mary Kostrzynski Rosie Clark	13 Aprille Mitchell	14 Jamie Brown
15 Philip Wescott 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 Gulledge 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 Elizabeth Fuller Christenbury Frances	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. Hunter Roddey
Mrs. Andrea Thomas
Mrs. Claudia Perez
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Senior Pastor
Transitional Associate Pastor
Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Preschool Director