

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

November 2023



From Pastor Rob

November is a month of thanksgivings, culminating, of course, in the Thanksgiving holiday. As we move into the latter days of the year, many of us begin to take stock of all that has happened.

For me, this year has been one full of big changes—the greatest being becoming a grandfather, twice over, all at once, with the arrival of our twin grandsons, Mills and Wilder. It suddenly dawned on me that I am in the last third of my life—not in any morbid sense, just the recognition of the passage of years. Folks my age are getting ever closer to retirement. Folks my age are slowing down, changing routines, and may already be beginning the process of downsizing.

Hopefully, as this happens, there is plenty of room for gratitude.

So much happens each and every day, piling into weeks and months, then becoming years—and God has been with us through it all. That knowledge alone is reason for thanksgiving. God has been there in each breath taken. God has been there in the ups and the downs. There have been so many moments of grace.

Sometimes, though, we have to clear away the rubbish to find the treasure.

There is so much that is utterly chaotic in the world around us. There is so much for which we human beings need to take responsibility for, confessing the mess we have made, the madness to which we have succumbed, and the blindness with which we groped around for something meaningful.

Part of thankfulness is realizing God never gave up on us, and still hasn't, and will not.

It is fascinating to me how many times the gospels record moments when Jesus engaged with someone completely at a loss—lepers hopeless for healing; the sick and broken out of options for mending; the desperate lost trying to find answers—Jesus met these people who had nothing left, but then opened them to a depth of possibility and promise they never would have imagined coming. God was with them when they felt most alone.

Those moments are there for us, too.

As I scroll back through the year, I find them popping up everywhere. They suddenly come into view, revealing yet another instance of God's goodness and graciousness.

Find them.

Give thanks for them.

Let gratitude lead you through this month.



Hunter's Thoughts

Last month, my sister and her husband were moving from one house to another here in Charlotte. There is nothing fun about moving! But it sometimes allows (or forces) us to come across things we have not looked at for some time. One thing rose to the surface that I had not seen in decades. It is a large scrapbook - 30 inches by 30 inches - far too big for any bookshelf, so it lived under a bed in the guest room. I remember looking at it a few times as a child, but I had all but forgotten about it.

After I have been released from my duties in helping with the move, I spent some time with this bit of family history. It was a book of photos and newspaper clippings that my grandmother had archived about my father. There were numerous articles that had been written following his early tennis career, far more than one would see today. This was due to several things: first, Charlotte was a much smaller place in the 1930's and 40's and there were two daily newspapers that needed to be filled; second, one of the big sports writers was a family friend; and third, I think my grandmother was a great publicist and early "momager".

It was fun going through this scrapbook. I learned much about my father that I had not known or had forgotten. It was a blessing that my grandmother had been so diligent in labeling people in the pictures - otherwise, many of those relationships would have been lost. But I realized that as impressive as his past had been, Dad had never lingered in that. He had used all those experiences and built upon them throughout his lifetime. He did that not by constantly talking about his past, but by always seeking new ways to empower others. He loved to get people involved in tennis and many other activities as well. I have never known someone who so enjoyed helping people take up a new activity or make a new discovery or learn a new skill.

This was a sad contrast to one of his best friends from his youth and college days. He was a student and athlete who excelled at everything he did. There were probably more articles about him than there ever had been about Dad. This friend's mother had equally kept a record of all of those. Unfortunately, he seemed to be stuck in that for the rest of his life. He "peaked" in college when he was the student body president and "Big Man On Campus". He could not seem to move past it. In his later years, he spent much of his time xeroxing copies of those articles and sending them to old friends - continually reliving the glory days - the scrapbooks always set out on his dining room table rather than under the bed for the occasional fun memory.

Looking forward can be so scary. I have had to make many changes over the last couple of years - some by choice and some not. I realize that it can be easy to slip into the mode of constantly thinking or saying, "I remember when it used to be better, or I liked the old way we did things." My history and experiences are important to who I am, but I know they can't define the future. Everything changes and moves and grows.

So I've been keeping my Dad and his friend in mind. Much as I love history and old stories and photos, I don't want to simply stay focused behind, looking at yellowed photos, while missing what is going on all around me. Dad kept making scrapbooks throughout his life - scrapbooks of new pictures and new friends and new experiences. He did not toss out the old. In fact, he loved to contrast some pictures that showed relationships spanning decades. But he also loved adding new people and places and experiences to the story. And he continued to label everyone in them so that he could honor both the old and the new.



We were busy last month with Fire Safety Week, Community Helpers Week, Fall Festival (hayrides, pumpkin patch, and AZoo2You petting zoo), and Halloween festivities (storybook parade, candy walk, and Trunk or Treat). Whew!



THANK YOU to the police officers from the University Division of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for talking to the students about what they do and letting them sit in their police cars! **THANK YOU, too, to the firefighters from Station 36 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Department** for teaching our students how to “Stop, Drop, and Roll” and letting the children climb up in their big fire truck!

A huge **THANK YOU to Mr. Harvey Alexander** for making the hayrides around our campus so bouncy and fun and to Jimmy Brown and Bob Oehler for making them possible by loaning us the tractor and wagon! You all are the BEST!

This month our students will learn about God’s fall gifts, being thankful, expressing what they are thankful for, and what Thanksgiving is all about. Our Pre-K classes will celebrate Thanksgiving with their annual Thanksgiving Feast and our 3’s classes will celebrate Thanksgiving with their Festival of Plenty!

Our students will also learn about the following Bible stories in Children’s Church this month: Water to Wine, Jesus Feeds 5000, Jesus Heals 10 Lepers, and the Good Samaritan.

Our **Fall Scholastic Book Fair** is currently underway in the Bus Garage from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m., now through Thursday, November 2nd. You can also visit our book fair online by going to www.scholastic.com/bf/mallardcreekpreschool1.

We are so thankful for our Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church family and hope that each of you have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving surrounded by your family and friends!

Follow us on Instagram and Like us on Facebook so you can see what is happening at MCPCP!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 ~ Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

| January - Oct15, 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Year to Date income | |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | \$1,404.34 |
| WORSHIP OFFERING | \$236,342.74 |
| ONLINE GIVING | \$106,818.51 |
| CELL TOWER INCOME | \$25,093.44 |
| ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB | \$20,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$389,659.03 |
| YTD INCOME | \$389,659.03 |
| YTD EXPENSES | \$493,391.10 |
| Reserves Spent | (\$103,732.07) |

| 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 1/2 a month | \$12,427.74 |
| Total Contributions | \$364,565.59 |

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

November 2023

Youth Club Schedule:

Teen Fellowship Schedule:

November 2023

Youth Club Schedule:

| Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Date | Event |
| 11/5 | Bible Story and Musical Rehearsal |
| 11/12 | Bible Story and Musical Rehearsal |
| 11/19 | Thanksgiving luncheon- no YC |
| 11/26 | Sabbath (Thanksgiving) |

November 2023

Teen Fellowship Schedule:

| Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Date | Event |
| 11/5 | Mission - Buy gifts for Christmas Angels |
| 11/12 | Bible Study, Fun and Dinner |
| 11/19 | Thanksgiving luncheon- teens help with clean up- No teens |
| 11/26 | Sabbath (Thanksgiving) |



"When you donate to the **MCPC General Fund** you are supporting our children and teens ministries. You are helping them grow in their relationship with our church family and with God.

Here are a few pictures from service events, Montreat Youth Conference and Bible School."

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the 18 years you have poured into me, and for your support through the Neil scholarship. This allows me to be able to focus on my work and hobbies, and relieves a lot of stress. Thank you for everything.



Love, **Hayden Love**
Hayden Love



Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, November 21, noon

Adam Rogers with the North Carolina Highway Patrol will be sharing his experiences with us as to how they minister to children who have been involved in accidents or other incidents, and how to better protect ourselves.

(Members are invited to bring a stuffed animal for the patrolmen to give to children involved in accidents)





The Mallard Creek Church family extends gratitude to our LIVING veterans and to those now actively serving God and country.

Marcos Arellano
J.W. Avant
Joseph Wayne Beard
Randal Young Bishop
Bobby E. Bost
Robert Joseph Brown
Kenneth Wayne Brown
Michael Steven Buchanan
Calvin Alexander Caldwell
Fred Hammond Campbell
Paul Buxton Christenbury
Alistair Jeremy Coyte
Anthony Daddona
Lt. Keyes Dickson
Guy Eberhart
Young Edward Garrison
Lewis C. Grubb

Edward Ingram Gullledge
Jonathan Halter
Robert Hamilton
Kenneth Ray Helms
James Irvin Hunter
William Ernie Jones
Mark A. Johnson
Charles Keys
Dallas Merle King
Ronald LeBold
Roger Lyell
Warner Marshall
Herman Ronnie McKay
Thomas Dale McLaughlin
James McCaig Mitchell
Robert Moore
Larry Walton Quick

Charles Ronald Oehler
Donald Lee Oehler
Joseph Larry Oehler
Martin Eugene Oehler, Jr.
Robert McGill Oehler, Jr.
Vance R. Reid
Lane Calvin Seaford, II
William Alan Standish
Charles O. Strong, Jr.
James Michael Stubbs
Leland Darrell Thomas
Tanner Tiece
Tracy Nelson Tucker
Gary D. Walker
Ron Phillip Patrick Wescott
David McLaughlin Wilson

Actively Serving

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SGT Malcom Allen | LTC Rob Byars | LT Alex Busch |
| STG2 Hunter Holland | BG Cristina Moore | Austin Powers (Nat Guard) |
| Major Trevor Sutherland (Air Nat Guard) | Master SGT Rick Treadway PV2 Stephen Lisi | LTJG Morgan Whitmore |

Scan
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WE GIVE because
GOD GAVE FIRST

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...
John 3:16

Text
MCPC
to 73256

New ways to give at Mallard Creek



The year has flown by and its time for the
Angel tree.

thankyou!

We will once again work with Parkside and University Meadows Elementary Schools and will help about 130 children celebrate Christmas. We hope to have the children's information by November 1st. So please don't delay! We will need to have gifts turned in by November 19 so that they can be delivered to the schools with sufficient time.

If you want to make a family's Christmas special, pick a child's name during Sunday service. The Angel tree will be in the gathering space. When you pick an Angel please make sure to leave the angel that has your information in the box by the tree. Alternatively, email Maria Menconi at paulmaria620@yahoo.com or call her at 704-560-3961.

When you shop for your child please drop your unwrapped gift at the church office or in the gathering space as soon as possible but again, **no later than November 19**. Please make sure you include the angel that has the child's information with the gift so that we know who the gifts belong to. If you can't get to the church to bring your gift please let Maria Menconi know and she will make arrangements to pick up the gifts.

You can also donate money and we can shop for you. Please make checks to Presbyterian Women and in the memo section write "Angel Tree." Checks can be mailed to the church office, placed in the Sunday collection plate or given to Maria or Kerri Wass.

The church's address is: 1600 W Mallard Creek Church Rd, Charlotte NC 28262

Please help these children have a Merry Christmas and thanks in advance for your support.



our **Rise Against Hunger meal** packing event will be on February 3, 2024 and that online registration details will be announced once available.

Please have people call Paul Menconi at 704-574-8039 with any questions.

Larry and I want say "**Thank You, All**" for the many cards, thoughts and prayers that the MCPC family has blessed us with over the many months since he had the fall (back surgery - fractured vertebrae) and 2 weeks later, quadruple heart bypass surgery. He remained in the hospital from February 25 to March 25, then home to recuperate. He returned to the hospital in early September for a 2 week stay due to a bacterial infection located in the back wound with some infection in the left lung. The Doctors first thought that he suffered a slight stroke but after numerous testing, determined that was not the case. I believe it was a case of him being overwhelmed with all that was going on that caused the alarm. At the present time, he is continuing with a strong antibiotic drip regiment until at least early November. At that time, testing will be done to determine if the infection has cleared - or not. He will most likely continue with oral antibiotics for several months. In the future he will need to have a second carotid artery surgery once the infection clears. The back wound continues to heal slowly but overall he is feeling much better now. The heart surgery went well with no complications!

So many asked how he is during the BBQ week when I saw you. Thank you for continuing to keep us both in your prayers as we continue down this long road but hopefully the healing process will be completed soon. A very special Thank You goes out the Pastor Hunter for the many personal visits and prayers during Larry's 2 hospital stays. Another special Thank You to the Mallard Creek Quilt Ministry for gifting him with a prayer quilt. He covers up with it as he continues to rest in his recliner!

In Christ, Larry and Ann Carroll



Special Prayers

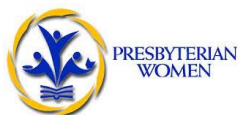


| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| The family of Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore | | Caroline Williams | Linda Benfield |
| Brenda Dodds - friend of Sara Haynes | Shirley Hunter | Cecil Massey | Donna Seaford |
| Donna Garrison — wife of Eddie Garrison | Juanita Untz | Roy Kinnamon | Suggie Christenbury |
| Larry Carroll - husband of Ann Carroll | Ruby Downing | Tommy Almond | Ginger Penninger |
| 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 |
| Dale McLaughlin | Ann Brown | Carlita Hunter | Debbie White |
| Joey Munday— Mack's friend | Jane Geracimos | Elizabeth King | Jane Marshall |
| The family of Dennis Lord | Patsy Oehler | | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Merry Christmas | | | December Birthdays | | | |
| | | | | | 1 Marlene Allen Joe Crapster Debbie Dowling | 2 Polly Caldwell Elliott Garrison Debra Johnson |
| 3 Jeff Garrison Ken Gupton | 4 Kelsea Brockmeier Ray Oehler Micah Halter | 5 Bill Cochran | 6 Lane Seaford II Clay Scholand Hudson Oehler | 7 | 8 | 9 Michael Andreasen |
| 10 Wayne Beard Grier Sangutei | 11 | 12 Sammy Putnam | 13 Melanie Scholand Easton Powell | 14 Ethan Stiffel | 15 Betsy Killian Mason McElveen | 16 Rickie Grubb Bain Wilson Carter Estes Carson Monteith |
| 17 Barbara Carter | 18 | 19 June Bryant Stacey Alexander | 20 Terri Garrison | 21 | 22 Sharon Richards | 23 |
| 24 J.W. Avant Earl Thomas | 25 Donna Brookshire | 26 | 27 Sharon Benfield | 28 Lewis Grubb T.J. Fuller | 29 Ethel Ranson Ronda Johnston Amy Spittle Brett Cochran | 30 |
| 31 Alan Garrison Paul Menconi Haley Johnson | | |  | | | |

Elder duty for November: Becky Wood, Mack Downing, Alan Garrison

Deacon duty for November: Robin McCraw, Joe Crapster, Phil Ashley, Wendy White



Presbyterian Women Circle Meeting

Come join us for fellowship, Bible study, prayer.

- **Circle of Rebekah and Ruth** Meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm
- **Circle of Mary Anna** Meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am in the Garrison–Martin Class

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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