

# The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church  
[www.mallardcreekchurch.org](http://www.mallardcreekchurch.org) | 704.547.0038  
 1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



## From Pastor Rob

When daughter Chelsea was in college in Young Harris, Georgia, one of the highlights was getting to hike the 66 trail. This trail started on the backside of the campus and then climbed to the summit of Brasstown Bald, the highest peak in Georgia. It was a winding, twisting abandoned roadbed, built by prisoners in the 1930s, meant to carry GA Highway 66 over the peak. It never opened. Instead, it became a challenge for walkers and hikers, rising over 3500 feet in its six mile course. What made it especially hard was that it had a series of false flats—you would round a bend after an excruciating quarter mile climb, hit a flat section, think you surely must have crested the trail, then round a corner and stare at an insidious climb that disappeared into a grove of trees. It happened again and again as you climbed toward the summit, each time making you question everything about yourself, sanity, and wisdom.

This summer reminded me of those climbs.

I will forever remember our July Session meeting—we were thick in the planning for a full reopening in late August—everything would again resume some sort of normal hubbub and busy-ness, from Sunday School to Presbyterian Women to the BBQ to our youth programs to our music—everything—then the very next day—the very next day—Pastors Rob and Alison both tested positive for COVID, the delta variant. Soon after, the virus reared its ugly head in a cascade we are still riding, touching many near and dear to us, taking some from us, and suddenly hitting us with yet another steep incline toward recovery to add to all the other steep inclines we've already climbed.

Some of us are questioning everything about us, sanity, and wisdom.

Jesus and the disciples hit a few of these “66 trails” in their life together. St John tells us that at one point after a particularly difficult wrestling with the cost of discipleship that led to an exodus among the crowds, Jesus asked the Twelve, ‘And are you going to leave, too?’ Always remember St Peter’s response, ‘And where would we go?’ (John 6:67-69, but read all of John 6 to get the full picture)

And where would we go?

As we continue to struggle to keep climbing, one constant remains—the truth is, we really can’t stop climbing. That was true on that mountain trail; it’s true as we climb through this pandemic. There really are no options but to keep climbing. One day leads to the next. As we awake each morning, we keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Peter knew he needed to keep going. He had started the climb with Jesus; he intended to finish it.

But Peter also knew that he was with Jesus.

We are, too.

Peter knew that Christ held all the keys and essentials to help, hope, and healing. Christ still does. Peter knew that the people around him needed all of those things; the people around us do, too. Peter knew oh, so well what the nursing staff in my dad’s care facility know and have emblazoned on their t-shirts—Tough times pass away; tough teams don’t! We are called to care for one another, walk with one another, and help one another get through this time—one step at a time. And when we round a corner and stare straight into yet another steep incline, we grab one another’s hands and keep going.

Christ climbs beside us, each step of the way.



As I sat in one of the pair of matching blue IKEA chairs in my office in late August writing this article, all of my family resided in the United States. My aunts, my uncle, my spouse, my children and their significant others, my father, my niece, and my father-in-law - all of my family lived in the United States as I wrote this article.

Now, a mere ten or so days later, all of my family *except* my son and daughter-in-law live in the United States. On Monday, August 30, my son and daughter-in-law (the newlyweds) flew to Madrid, Spain via Atlanta and New York where they will live for at least the next two years as Kaylee works on her Masters degree at the University of Salamanca.

I miss them already.

Life is full of losses. Some losses are anticipated such as when a friend dies of cancer. We have time to prepare for this kind of loss. Then there are those losses for which we cannot prepare - our supervisor or employer tells us Friday at 5:00pm that we are being laid off, or a stroke leaves one half of our body paralyzed. Life is full of losses, both

expected and unexpected.

I'll always remember the day that each of our children left home for college. Like all parents, I wanted my children to grow up, leave home, and become confident and independent adults, but when the moment came, I felt my heart break. I'll never forget that feeling, that sense of loss.

Life is full of losses - growing old is a type of loss as we realize that there are some things that we simply can no longer do; divorce is a loss as the dreams we had for life with our spouse are dashed; having a baby is even a loss as the couple realizes that the independent, free life they had is now consumed with caring for a baby.

Life is full of losses.

And here is where the body of Christ enters in. As the body of Christ, we lift up one another in all times and in all circumstances. As the body of Christ, we are there for one another through thick and thin. As the body of Christ, we journey with and beside one another.

Life *is* full of losses, but the good news of the Gospel is that we need never be alone while in the midst of any loss. A sister or a brother in Christ is *always, always* a phone call away.



## “Marriage Workshop to Begin September 29”



Rev. Dr. Mark Larson of Sanctuary Counseling will present a four-part marriage workshop, “Rebooting Your Marriage,” beginning Wednesday, September 29 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Mark is a seasoned mental health professional with over 30 years of clinical experience. Childcare will be provided for ages birth through 5th grade. Although not required, couples are encouraged to attend all sessions. The format for the workshop is hybrid, so that those wishing to attend at home may do so via Zoom. A Zoom invite will be sent out a week in advance.

The series is for couples of all ages and stages in their relationship. Each gathering will run roughly 1.5 hours, beginning with snacks and fellowship.

The topics to be covered include:

- Characteristics of Healthy Couples
- Learning How to Meet Your Partner's Core Emotional Needs
- Mirroring - A Different Way to Listen
- The Enneagram

Please email Pastor Alison ([revallieo@gmail.com](mailto:revallieo@gmail.com)) so that we may reserve a space for you in the class.

Elizabeth King  
Bernice Martin  
Barbara Krady  
Tom Rhodes  
Ken Grimes

Warner Marshall  
Kenneth Helms  
Caroline Willaims  
Kathy Robinson  
Ginny Brooks

Ann Brown  
Joann Reid  
Bonnie Hodges  
Michael Doering  
Zak Miller

Nancy Holland  
Ronald Stephens  
Holly Diggs  
Winston Haney

Carolyn Sheehan  
David Stephens  
Jack Pirrello  
J.C. Plott

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



“It’s almost time for preschool to open back up and our staff is working hard to get the preschool ready for our first day on September 7th! We can’t wait to see all the returning children again and we’re looking forward to seeing the new little faces, too!

Like many of you, we had high hopes that the 2021-2022 was going to be normal school year but it looks like that is not meant to be yet. So, we will be starting the school year off by following many of our COVID-19 policies and procedures that we implemented during the last school year. Our goal is to continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for all our children, staff, families, and MCP Church members. Some changes that you may notice are:

- Children and staff will be temperature checked before entering the building.
- Staff will be wearing masks or face shields.
- Children may also wear masks if their parents want them to.
- Each class will be kept together as a family unit during the day.
- A carpool line will be used for drop-off and pick-up.
- No parents or visitors will be allowed in the preschool.
- Daily enhanced cleaning, sanitizing, washing hands, etc. throughout the preschool.
- Social distancing, when possible.

We want to thank each of you for your continued support of our preschool as an outreach ministry program of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church. Our mission is to provide a loving, learning, Christian environment where children can test themselves in their world, gain self-confidence and develop as a whole person. At MCPCP, we emphasize the development of young children spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically through a developmentally appropriate curriculum under the leadership of experienced teachers.

*Isaiah 41:10 “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

**Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant**

### PW Circle Meetings update

Calling All Presbyterian Women – Please join us Sunday September 12, 2021 at the 10:00am service, we will announce our Lifetime member recipient and remember those ladies who have left us. Unfortunately, due to the rising numbers of covid we will cancel our kick-off meeting for our new PW 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. Our Bible study this year will be the PW/Horizons Bible Study “What My Grandmothers Taught Me” where it highlights many women of the Bible. We hope everyone will join us for the kick-off meeting on Sunday. Below are the circles, the time in which they meet and Circle leaders and their contact info.

Circle of Mary-Anna –Tuesday; September 14, 2021 – 10:20 am in the gathering space

(Jane Isenhower-isenhowerj@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 in the gathering space

(Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – September 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 on ZOOM

(Beth Patafio – Bethpatafio@icloud.com)

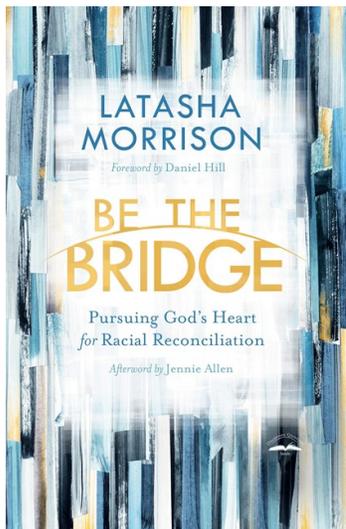


# Mission Trip

**Mission Trip 2021** - Trying to find a place to do a mission trip during covid has been a challenge to say the least. But God has provided! One of our Mission partners has reached out for some help. Camp Grier - We have previously gone to Grier and rebuilt bunkhouses and we have 3 that are still in need of rebuilds. At Camp Grier we can have socially distance lodging- each person will have their own bunk room and the work will be outdoors. So we are happy to announce we will be going to Camp Grier September 12 - 17, 2021. Please sign up in the office if you want to participate (because of sleeping arrangements space is limited) **Camp Grier is requiring any participants to be vaccinated.** Any questions you can contact Tom Fuller (704-310-0644) or Robin Fuller (704-701-2121)

## Sunday School Locations

Baucom-Craig : dining hall	Garrison Martin: same classroom
New Life: same classroom	Spencer: chapel (same room)
Morrison: same classroom	Listening to Your Life: Gathering Space
High School: Teen room in fellowship building	K-5: Youth Club room in fellowship building
Middle School: parlor	Nursery: same room downstairs in preschool building
Preschool: same room downstairs in preschool building	



**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SEPTEMBER 12**

Our weekly Bible Study will resume on September 12 at 630 pm. We will start the year in a ZOOM format, but hopefully as things with COVID ease, we will be able to meet in person on Sunday evenings. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew in a slow format, really taking our time with the book, delving deeply into what Matthew wants to teach us about Jesus, and what Jesus means for us. As always, the study is one where you can attend every session, but if your schedule only permits attending sporadically, you won't be lost. Pastor Rob will be glad to send you a ZOOM link before the first session—just email, text, or message him.

We are expanding our online possibilities and live Sunday morning worship is now available on both the MCPC website and the MCPC Facebook page.

Join Pastors Rob and Alison as we discuss Latasha Morrison's faith-based book on racial reconciliation. Beginning Thursday evening, September 16, the group will meet for three consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:15. Come with an open heart and open mind, and bring a bag supper if you would like. Liquid refreshments provided! This discussion will be a hybrid offering so that folks may join via Zoom, if preferred. Those who join in person will gather in the Fellowship Hall. Masks are required.



**Calling all girls ages 11-17.  
BSA Girl Troop 248 meets  
Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm at the  
Community House.  
For more information -  
[ScoutmasterLorna@gmail.com](mailto:ScoutmasterLorna@gmail.com)**



# Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

September 2021

Welcome everyone! I am greatly looking forward to a full fall schedule of activities for our kids and teens! For the time being, we will meet in the dining hall at church so we can space out, and we will require masks when indoors.

## Youth Club Schedule:

<u>Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9/12	Kick Off Celebration
9/19	Bible Story and Craft
9/26	Bible Story and Games

## Teen Fellowship Schedule:

<u>Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
9/12	Kick Off Celebration
9/19	Mission- Shop at Sam's for Backpack Blessings
9/26	Bible Study and Dinner

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE: Youth Club will be from 3:00-4:30pm and Teen Fellowship will be from 4:30-6:30pm\*\*\***

We  our **Volunteers.**



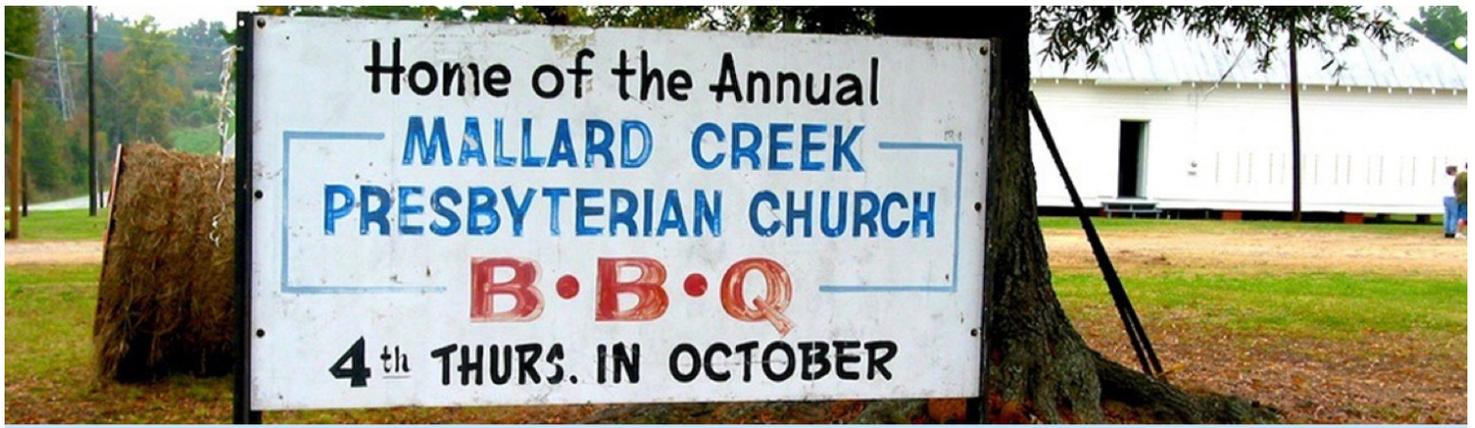
We need your help! Andrea is looking for volunteers for a variety of programs this fall: Youth Club and Teen Fellowship on Sunday afternoons, and nursery volunteers on Sunday mornings and occasional Wednesday evenings.

Contact Andrea at

[andreat@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:andreat@mallardcreekchurch.org) if interested!

Our acolyte ministry needs more acolytes! Our acolytes have the important job of bringing the light of Christ into our congregation for worship every Sunday morning. If you have a child currently in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade that would like to participate, please let Andrea know.





## 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church BBQ Cancelled

The Session of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, unanimously voted to support the BBQ Committee's recommendation to CANCEL the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual BBQ, traditionally held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in October. This difficult decision was reached after much prayer and deliberation, by the Session's Elders and the BBQ Committee. While we realize that the "Grand Daddy of North Carolina BBQ's" is a timeless tradition, greatly anticipated by our Church Membership, our community, the media, and politicians – but, first and foremost the health and safety of our hundreds of Church volunteers and the thousands of valuable customers we serve each year is of the utmost importance.

Rest assured, the Church Leadership explored many options, such as drive thru only service, spaced out seating, postponement, or a scaled down event. Unfortunately, the time honored tradition of slow roasted pork over hickory wood, and making our Brunswick stew and cole slaw from scratch - requires very close contact of our Church volunteers for a week. We saw no way to accomplish this, and have our folks remain safe. Finally, we would never want to endanger our customers on BBQ Day.

We pray for quick healing of our community, and trust that we will be able to see all our supporting friends again, on October 27, 2022!

You may direct questions to either one of our Session members, or BBQ Co-Chairmen Charles Kimrey and Bill Wood.

## Frequently asked Questions

1. Why did the Session make the decision now instead of waiting till closer to the BBQ?  
Orders for food and supplies need to be placed in the first weeks of September. In addition, there is a tremendous amount of advance coordination that kicks off around September 1.
2. Why not just postpone the MCPC BBQ?  
There is a lot of uncertainty now. The possibility of holding the BBQ during colder months of Nov – Feb is difficult to execute. We also needed to be mindful of other area Church BBQ's that may still hold their event, and we did not want to infringe on their traditional dates. Finally, a springtime BBQ puts us in the position of holding 2 BBQ's in the same year, which is a large strain on our resources.
3. Why not do drive thru only?  
That option was definitely explored, but the logistics of our Church members working in close contact during preparation and serving, was considered a risk not worth taking. And, of course, we would not want to expose our customers either.
4. Is this the end of MCPC BBQ?  
NO! Absolutely not. It is a 90-year tradition that will surely continue. This is just a pause to make sure we all stay healthy.
5. What does this affect MCPC financially?  
Good question. The proceeds from the BBQ are split 15% for Missions, and 85% for the Building Fund – which maintains and upgrades our facilities as warranted. None of the proceeds go to operating cost or salaries. Having said that, a portion of the BBQ Building Fund revenue is designated to help pay off the Gathering Space Addition to the Sanctuary.

There is still an outstanding loan on that addition. Suffice to say, that we recognize that the current environment has put a strain on many family's budgets, but if your financial situation allows you to "Dig a little deeper" this Fall to supplement the lost income of the BBQ, please consider that. Make sure that you specify "Barbecue" in the note section of your contribution. If you give online, select one of the "Cap Campgn" categories fits your donation.



**Join us on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the sanctuary at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church or watch live on our website ([mallardcreekchurch.org](http://mallardcreekchurch.org)) or Facebook page (@MallardCreekPC) for Celebration Sunday, which will include our Back to School blessings!**

This school year will be particularly challenging (again!) for all of our students, parents, educators, and preschool staff, so we want to honor and bless all the hard work that will go into making this school year meaningful for our students. We invite students of all ages to bring their bookbags for a special blessing and gift. We also invite all educators/school support staff/MCPC preschool staff to join us for a special recognition and blessing.

We will also be collecting donations for our MCPC Preschool and for the ministry of Backpack Blessings. Bring donations on September 12<sup>th</sup>, or coordinate with Andrea to drop off at the church. Please bring any of the following items to donate and support these important ministries:

**For the MCPC Preschool:**

- Ziploc baggies (all sizes)
- Softsoap hand soap (small ones and refills)
- Hand sanitizer (squirt bottles and refills)
- Baby wipes
- Cleaning supplies: Bleach, Clorox wipes, Lysol spray
- Tide clothes detergent (to wash our towels)
- Old towels to use to wipe down playground equipment

**For Backpack Blessings:**

- Oatmeal, grits, cereal (boxes of individual packages)
- Cereal bars, granola bars, fruit grain bars
- Individual fruit cups/applesauce/fruit snacks
- Canned spaghetti/spaghetti-o's/chef boyardee
- Canned vegetables and canned meats
- Macaroni and cheese individual cups
- Vacuum sealed individual packages of chicken or tuna

Elder duty for September: Jonathan Kiser, Tommy Mitchell, Cristina Moore, Kristy Maddux and Jason Oehler

Deacon duty for September: Jamie Garrison, Rachel Rodden, Andrew Coore and Ryan Oehler

JULY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	
Worship Offering	\$32,757.00
Online Giving	\$9,218.00
TOTAL Offering	\$41,975.00
Total Offering YTD	\$309,013.23
Total Expenses YTD	\$333,646.21
Under for Year	(24,632.98)

**Yoga with Andrea!**  
**Monday Nights at 7pm ON ZOOM**  
**beginning September 13**



All skill levels welcome  
 Contact Andrea to put your name on the email list to receive the weekly Zoom invitation.

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, thoughts and phone calls when my mom passed away. She really enjoyed the prayer shaw from the Mallard Creek Prayer Shaw Ministry. It was kind of you to remember her.

With Love, Jeanene Lyell



**SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2021**

Dear Church Family,

I thank you every day for your prayers, cards and wonderful calls during my recent injury and now home rehab. Extra thanks to Pastor Alison and Linda and Braden Wallace for their special gifts. I am fortunate to have such a caring church.

Gratefully, Bonnie Hodges

We are quickly approaching September 11 and our meal-packing event. We hope to pack 10000 meals, but we need a firm commitment from at least 30 people by September 3 to ensure our success. Please pre-register online today! If you do not know how to do so, please contact Paul Menconi, our project leader, and he will be glad to register you and your family.

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/MallardCreekPresbyterian2021> Click here to register.

# Nominating



## COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is beginning the important process of Nominating 5 Elders and 7 Deacons for consideration by the Congregation, for election to 3 years of service on the Session and Diaconate, respectively. If you have a name in mind that you would like to submit for consideration, please contact one of the members of the Committee or the Church Office with your suggestion. Additionally, if you are contacted about being nominated, please prayerfully consider this form of service and gift to the Lord.

**The 2021 Nominating Committee is:**

Carey Armistead, Congregational Rep.  
 Perry Deaton, Diaconate Rep.  
 Lynette Gulledge, Congregational Rep.  
 Lori Joye, Congregational Rep.  
 Dee Dee Larkin, Congregational Rep.  
 Tommy Mitchell, Session Rep.  
 Bill Wood, Session Rep., and Chair  
 Rev. Rob Watkins, Ex-Officio

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="color: blue;">October Birthdays</h1>						
					1	2 Jeff Brown Amanda Murray Peter Shankey
3 Kimberly Stiffel Will Oehler	4 Crystal Johnston	5 Margaret Kirk Terry Wilkinson Lynn Davidson Justin Alford James Kostrzynski	6	7 Ann West Madelyn Lazarus	8 Jack Miles Kyle Semon Janet Dalelio	9 Michele Rosenberger
10	11 Thomas Moss	12	13 Jessica Booth	14 Chad Killian Justin Beall Trent Spittle	15 Lynn Kelley Bobbie Misenheimer Scott Dixon Tammy Alford	16 Sally Tulbert Nell Lawing Linda Baker
17 Pam Whitmire Alex Busch	18 Carole Ostrander Jan Isenhower	19 Harlowe Miller Bobby Brown	20 Harry Kirk, Jr. Ginny Haas Shelly Haas Aubrey Wasko	21 Jimmy Walker	22 Ed Gulledge III Jim Burroughs, Jr. Adelynn Zevan	23 Craven Benfield
24 Mary Jo Mizelle	25	26 James DeArmon Jr.	27 Shelley Schultz Connor Trimble	28 Katie Estes Deborah Wilson Phil Ashley Lorraine Ndingwan McKenzie Kimrey Erin Mitchell Ian Sangutei	29 Doreen Smith Ben Wilson Daniel McCraw II Blaine Kimrey	30 Jamie Garrison Austin Alexander Jay Burroughs III
31 Suggie Christenbury Sylvia Buchanan Debbie Faraone						

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church  
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Charlotte, NC 28262



[www.mallardcreekchurch.org](http://www.mallardcreekchurch.org)

The Rev. Rob Watkins

The Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins

Mrs. Andrea Thomas

Mrs. Shawn Watkins

Mr. David Barnaba

Mrs. Cathy Marlor

Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Senior Pastor

Temp. Associate Pastor

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Administrative Assistant

Director of Music

Financial Manager

Preschool Director