

# The Scroll

September 2023

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



## From Pastor Rob

I know that around here September can feel like summer with 90 degree days, humid nights, and cicadas still in full song, but for me, it always means fall has come. There is something about Labor Day weekend that always makes me feel like we are entering the last lap of the year. Even it is still hot as blue blazes outside, I begin to feel the shifting seasons.

All of our students are back in school at whatever they are from preschool through post-graduate work. Teachers are already hard at work, looking forward to the first fall break.



Wal-Mart has put up the Christmas decorations and you can buy pumpkin spice EVERYTHING everywhere—I still think pumpkin spice belongs in pumpkin pie exclusively—but what do I know?

A few hundred years ago, fall was associated with old age. If you were to read through some of the ancient liturgies of the Church, the turn in calendar from summer to fall meant a winding down, a graying of whatever is, and a season of decline. Interestingly, though, some of those same liturgies did not see this shift as a bad thing. Instead, they saw it as a season of quiet comfort following the hot mess of summer. Biblically, the Old Testament viewed entering the autumn years as a sign of wisdom and accomplishment. If one lived long enough to gain a head of gray hair, then one must surely know how to live. Youth was seen as a frantic, slightly derailed time of life when so much was unsettled, precarious, and outright dangerous. Old age was the time one earned the right to sit in the village gates and dispense the secrets of righteous living.

Maybe we can adopt something similar for ourselves as we enter fall again.

We have made it two-thirds of the way through the year. What have we learned so far? What experiences have we gleaned? Where have there been moments of joy? What have been the struggles?

Maybe we can find time to reflect on our lives, finding the moments of grace.

Then, we can use those reflections to guide the remainder of the year. Perhaps we can even offer counsel to someone still working their way through the challenges life presents this year.

I am glad to move into fall. It is a sure and certain sign of grace yet to come.



## Hunter's Thoughts

"Back to School!" That has long been the phrase when people talk about September. That's the way it always was for me. Labor Day will be the last hurrah at the neighborhood pool or the last quick trip to the beach. As soon as Labor Day is past, then we can start back to "normal" schedules of school days and weekends.



But these days, by September most schools have already been in session - some for as much as three weeks!. Though my old-fashioned paradigm still has August as an essential part of summer, the times have changed for many. I have watched over the last few weeks as different groups of students have begun their academic year. Some of them have done so with great excitement.....some less so. Seeing the children bring their backpacks to church made it all so much more real for everyone. Watching the preschool teachers prepare their classrooms is really exciting. As Rob mentioned to them during their orientation, the amount of wonderful noise - singing and laughing and playing - is always welcome as the pre-schoolers return. Young adults have already been dropped off at colleges and universities - to the mixture of relief and sadness of their parents. Both of my adult children are beginning new educational programs right now.

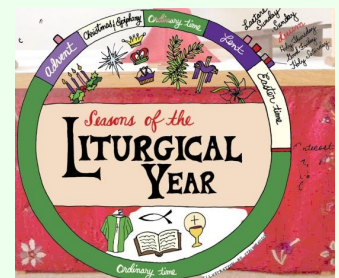
I note all those beginnings, but then I turn to worship planning for the next few months and I'm reminded of how different our liturgical calendar is. We will be winding up the liturgical year at the end of November and then beginning anew with Advent in December. We will then go through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter in a fairly compressed time frame. So this leaves the rest of the year as ... what? We've taken to giving this time of the liturgical year different names - "Proper" and "Ordinary" are two that are most often used. But that can be deceptive, particularly in the care of Ordinary.

Ordinary time is not meant to be thought of as common or unimportant. In fact, it comes from the idea of "ordinal numbers" which means the rank or listing of something, not the sum of it.

(Bored you yet?)

Anyway, I thought about all this as I looked at our worship planning. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter could be said to focus on the events in the life of Jesus and the church. In a way, this "Ordinary" time might be thought of as when we can focus on Jesus' teachings. I know that is an over-simplification, but it helps me sometimes to be reminded that in the midst of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we must also focus on what he taught us. We're not just marking time until the next "exciting" season of the church year; we are celebrating the extraordinary gift of Christ and all that he taught and continues to teach us.

May Ordinary time be a blessing and challenge and motivation to all of us!





It is time for preschool to open back up and our staff has been working hard to get everything ready for our first day on September 5<sup>th</sup>. We cannot wait to see our returning students and families and to meet our new ones!

**THANK YOU** so much for the donations that you brought for our preschool on Back-to-School Sunday! Your generosity means so much to all of us at MCPCP! Thank you, too,

**THANK YOU**

for your continued support of our preschool as an outreach ministry program of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church. We look forward to another wonderful year of working together with each of you and seeing where God leads us.



**Thank you** to everyone who attended our Chick-fil-A Spirit Night in May! We really appreciate your support! Thanks to our preschool and church families, we raised \$350 for our preschool! This was the largest amount we have ever received from one of our Spirit Nights! Yay!

We also want to express our love and gratitude to Andrea Thomas for the support that she has given to our preschool during her tenure here at MCPC. She has become a vital part of our team! Andrea played an important part in helping us get through the pandemic and supporting us with whatever we have needed ever since. Andrea's wisdom, caring and loving nature, advice, spirituality, compassion, helpfulness, constant support, etc. are invaluable to us and we are really going to miss her!

**Thank you, Andrea, for everything that you have done for the staff, children, and families of MCPCP! You are incredibly special to us, and we look forward to Andrew being one of our students and you being back as a parent very soon!**

If you love children and would like to earn some extra money, we would love for you to be a substitute teacher at the preschool! We have Substitute Trainings coming up on Tuesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call our office at 704-549-9741 or email [kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org).

Mark 6:7 *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

#### **To our church family,**

Our MCPC Preschool would like to celebrate with you the beginning of another successful year! Our classes are completely full with 165 children, and more on the waiting list! We have a great faculty and staff this year that are dedicated to teaching developmentally appropriate Christian curriculum to the kids in our community. Our church has the incredible opportunity to share the love of Christ with 165 kids every day through the vital ministry of our preschool and service of the preschool staff.

You may have noticed the new color of the walls in the preschool, and we want to celebrate that too! Our preschool got a much needed face lift, which makes the church property look brighter too. The walls in the hallway are white and blue now, and the doors into the preschool from outside have been painted white. We were blessed to be able to do this with a surplus from previous years of the preschool budget. (The preschool budget is completely separate from the church budget.) When we have faith, God will provide!

As always, our preschool welcomes volunteers and/or substitute teachers from the congregation. We welcome your prayers and support for this ministry as well. Our preschool is grateful for the support from the church, and we look forward to fostering an even stronger partnership in order to give all these kids the love of Christ that they deserve.

**In Christ,**

**Andrea Thomas**

## January - August 15, 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION

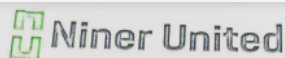
### Year to Date income

SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$1,074.34
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$197,693.21
ONLINE GIVING	\$87,556.77
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$18,820.08
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$325,144.40
YTD INCOME	\$325,144.40
YTD EXPENSES	\$397,984.10
Reserves Spent	(\$72,839.70)

## 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 1/2 a month	\$18,101.00
Total Contributions	\$306,324.32

## "Your Benevolences Are Making a Difference"



July 11, 2023

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church  
1600 Mallard Creek Church Rd. West  
Charlotte, NC 28262

Dear Friends,

We are immensely grateful for your support of Niner United campus ministry at UNC Charlotte. Your generous contribution of \$750 has made a significant impact on our ability to provide valuable programming and resources to our students. Through Bible studies, worship services, and community outreach opportunities, we have been able to foster spiritual growth and cultivate a strong sense of community on campus.

Your support has not only touched the lives of many students but has also helped them find a sense of belonging and connection to something greater than themselves. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for your enduring generosity and investment in the lives of our students. Thank you for making a difference and being an integral part of our vibrant campus community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Steve Cheyney  
University Minister

### BIBLE STUDY SET TO RESUME

Our online and in-person Bible Studies will resume meeting after their summer break.



The **ONLINE STUDY** will start, Sunday, **September 10, at 630 pm via ZOOM**. Please contact Pastor Rob if you wish to be sent the link to join the group.

The **IN PERSON STUDY** will start, Wednesday, **September 13, at 600 pm in the Garrison-Martin classroom** upstairs in the gym building.

Both studies will be looking at the Gospel of John, chapters 18-21, the Passion of Christ.

Please join us as you wish!



### ONLINE BOOK GROUP SET TO RESUME

Our **online book group** will begin meeting again after a summer break on **Thursday, September 14**.

This group meets via ZOOM. Please ask Pastor Rob for a link if you wish to join the group.

The book for study will be 'The Ragamuffin Gospel,' by Brennan Manning. It is a classic meditation on the absolute centrality of grace in our walk with Jesus.

Join us as you wish!

New ways to give at Mallard Creek



Scan  
QR  
Code

**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



# Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

September 2023

## September Youth Club Schedule

Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm	
Date	Event
9/10	Kick Off Celebration
9/17	Bible Story and Ice Cream Party
9/24	Games and Craft Night

## September Teen Fellowship Schedule

Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm	
Date	Event
9/10	Kick Off Celebration
9/17	Mission - Shop for Backpack Blessings
9/24	Bible Study and Dinner



Youth Club  
Eras Tour Themed  
Fall Kickoff Party  
Wear a Taylor Swift  
inspired outfit!  
Sunday,  
September 10<sup>th</sup>  
3:00-4:30pm  
Dining Hall



Teen Fellowship Fall Kickoff Pool Party  
Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30pm  
Meet at Kings Crossing Neighborhood Pool  
801 Kings Crossing Drive NW in Concord  
RSVP to Andrea or Amy Spittle to plan for food!

Dear Mallard Creek Church Family,

I am so grateful to all of you for blessing me with the opportunity to teach and care for your teens and kids for the last four years. It has been an honor to serve this community, and I have loved working with all the families of the church and preschool. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside the incredible staff of MCPC and MCPCP. I believe that God put me here for a reason, and I know that God is working and doing incredible things in this congregation.

Alas, I will be stepping down from my position as Director of Children and Youth Ministries on September 10th. This has been a very difficult decision to leave my church family, but I need to spend more time with my family, and I will be working on my second Master's degree.

Please join me on September 10th for one last celebration together as we kick-off the year of activities for Youth Club and Teen Fellowship. We will have an Eras tour themed party for Youth Club (wear your favorite TS inspired outfit!), and we will have a pool party for Teen Fellowship. Come and have some fun together for the end of one era and beginning of another.

I have no doubt that God will continue to grow the youth programs at MCPC, and I have so much hope and joy for this congregation. The best thing that MCPC does is make everyone feel like family, and I'm grateful to have called you my family for the last four years. I pray that you will continue to bless and encourage one another in the same way you have blessed me.

With God's blessings and all my love,

Andrea Thomas



**BBQ Committee Meeting**  
 It's time to plan our  
**92nd Mallard  
 Creek  
 Presbyterian  
 Church BBQ**  
 Let's meet at the  
 Community House,  
 under the shed

Home of the Annual  
**MALLARD CREEK  
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 B.B.Q**  
 4<sup>th</sup> THURS. IN OCTOBER  
**September 5, 2023**  
**6:30pm**  
 at the Community House  
 Shed

**BREAKFAST**  
**Fellowship Committee is hosting**  
**Breakfast Sep 10,17,24**  
 We invite **Members and Guests** to join us for  
 breakfast and fellowship during **Coffee &  
 Fellowship Time**.  
 Hope to see you there  
**Fellowship Committee**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
 There will be an **Active Shooter**  
**Training session** offered by the **CMPD**  
**on September 17 after worship.**  
 Please mark your calendars for this important  
 event. It is free and take about an hour to  
 complete.  
**The Safety Committee of Mallard  
 Creek Presbyterian Church**

**ACTIVE  
 SHOOTER  
 TRAINING**

**Older Adults trip**  
 The Older Adults are going  
 to **Mayberry (Mt. Airy, NC)**  
 on **Tuesday, September 26,**  
 leaving the parking lot at  
**9:00am** and returning in the  
 afternoon around **3:30pm.**

Please make your reservation for transportation to  
 Carl & Margaret Hatton at 614-5375363  
[hattonm7@gmail.com](mailto:hattonm7@gmail.com) or Jimmy & Polly Walker  
 at 704-6516678 [jhwalker@aol.com](mailto:jhwalker@aol.com)

**Mount Airy  
 NORTH CAROLINA**  
 MAYBERRY • MARY

**Parables  
 of Christ**  
**Tuesday, September 19, at noon.**  
 What a wonderful way for us to  
 kick-off our **first Lunch Bunch**  
 with a **musical trio The Parables of Christ.**  
 (Members are invited to bring food items for the  
 church backpack ministry.)

**BACKPACK  
 MINISTRY**

Reminder: We keep a permanent list of our members for Lunch Bunch, so if  
 you cannot attend please call Margaret - 614-537-5363 or Jimmy - 704-651-6678  
 to cancel your meal reservation.

**CONFIRMATION**  
 Calling all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders!  
 A new year of Confirmation class begins on  
 September 10 during the Sunday School hour.  
 Let Andrea know if you'd like to participate.

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

We need volunteers for Sunday  
 afternoon activities with the teens and  
 kids this fall.  
**Contact Andrea if interested.**

**LUNCH  
 CHURCH**  
**Day in the Park**  
**Sunday October 1st**  
 after 10:30 am  
 worship service  
 we will have Luncheon: Hamburgers, hot dogs  
 and ice cream. Come out and enjoy great  
 church fellowship for everyone

**AMERICAN RED CROSS  
 BLOOD DRIVE**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Sunday October 1st at**  
**10 am**  
 walk ins are welcome  
 Thank you!

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hawaii Fire Relief**  
 Contribute to:  
**Disaster Relief— U.S. Wildfires (DR000165)**  
 This designated account supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing  
 (OGHS) designed to enable a significant response for U.S wildfires. Your  
 faithful giving is deeply appreciated.

If you want to donate to a different ministry, [you can change it here .](#)

To give by phone, call **800-872-3283**. To send a check, please designate  
 where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)**  
**P.O. Box 643700**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**



**Dear MCPC**  
 I want to express my sincere thanks for  
 all the prayers, cards, hugs and support I  
 have received from my church family  
 over the past few months. Losing both  
 parents has been very hard, but it is a  
 blessing to know I can count on all of  
 Mallard Creek Presbyterian church for  
 support.  
 Love, Lynn Davidson

**Elder duty for September:** Cristina Moore, Clay  
 Scholand, Keri Wass

**Deacon duty for September:** Amy Spittle, Sue  
 Bishop, Sheila Letica, Tom Baker, Rob Moore

**The Quilters** will resume their monthly meetings  
 on **SEPTEMBER 12**, and they will meet the  
**SECOND TUESDAY** of every month during the  
 school year—September through  
 May. They usually start gather-  
 ing around **9:30 in the morning**  
 and meet until about **1:00 pm.**



## Special Prayers

Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore	Elizabeth King	Caroline Williams	Linda Benfield
Jimmy Rodgers - son of Frances Christenbury	Shirley Hunter	Cecil Massey	Donna Seafood
Donna Garrison— wife of Eddie Garrison	Juanita Untz	Roy Kinnamon	Elaine Lord
Larry Carroll - husband of Ann Carroll	Ruby Downing	Dennis Lord	Guy Eberhart
Andy Marcus - brother of Rachel Rodden	Donnie Oehler	Ken Christenbury	Carolyn Sheehan
Linda Taylor - sister-in-law of Nancy Busch	Beth Massey	Judith Rankin	Barbara Cottrell
Don and Debbie Killian	Taylor Jones	Lynn Kelley	Cristina Moore
LaVern Winter - father of Tammy Alford	Suggie Christenbury	David Saviano	Cy Alexander
Cora Woodall - great niece of Nancy Busch	Dale McLaughlin	Ann Brown	Earl Thomas
Kim Cross - brother of Susie Cross	Carlita Hunter	Stan Mach	Jean Thomas
Wanda and Barry Henson - sister and brother-in-law of Perry Deaton	The family of J.C. Curtis - father of Jerry Curtis		
David Clemmer, Jr. - son of David Clemmer	Tori Demmerling - daughter of Jane Geracimos Perry Deaton		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1>October Birthdays</h1> 						
1	2 Jeff Brown Amanda Murray Peter Shankey	3 Kimberly Stiffel Will Oehler	4 Crystal Johnston	5 Terry Wilkinson Lynn Davidson Justin Alford James Kostrzynski	6	7 Ann West Madelyn Lazarus
8 Jack Miles Kyle Semon Janet Dalelio Alexander Hattie	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 Nell Lawing Linda Baker	17 Pam Whitmire Alex Busch	18 Jan Isenhower Charlotte McConnell	19 Harlowe Miller Bobby Brown	20 Harry Kirk, Jr. Aubrey Wasko	21 Jimmy Walker Alison Watkins
22 Ed Gullledge 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 Debbie Faraone				

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Charlotte, NC 28262



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The Rev. Rob Watkins  
The Rev. Hunter Roddey  
Mrs. Andrea Thomas  
Ms. Amanda Booth  
Ms. Claudia Perez  
Mr. David Barnaba  
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

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