September 2026

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

Chicken Little Goes to Church

I spent the week of August 16 -21 up at Montreat for Transitional Ministry Training. Helping a church in a season of transition (meaning, between pastors), is a whole category of ministry all to its own. So, because there was a training session so near to home, I enrolled and I went. There were 21 pastors in attendance, but more than ¾ of them were NOT in transitional ministry. MOST of the pastors attending were in installed positions in local churches. So why did they attend? Did they think they had registered for some other continuing education course, and turned up to the wrong session by mistake?!

No. It was said repeatedly throughout our week together that, **"All ministry is now transitional ministry."** Every pastor in attendance, in his or her own way, stated the same NEW reality - the culture has changed drastically in recent years, and the church is floundering, because we don't know where we fit anymore. The church is no longer a social hub for people. The church is no longer a networking hub, either. The church is no longer one of those few places where people used to find significance. The church is no longer a credible moral voice in our culture. So what exactly are we now? The WHOLE church is trying to figure out WHO we are and WHERE we fit.



I am not typically a Chicken Little. I am slow to believe the sky is falling. Why? I have trouble believing the sky is falling because God is still on the throne and rules heaven and earth. And so, I believe, the church will always have a place. God will see to that. And times of cultural shift may be disorienting, but they can also be good, believe it or not. They can be times that allow us to reconnect to our true identity, and our true purpose.

In other words, what should the church do in a culture where we don't easily fit anymore? We should do what we have ALWAYS done. We can still tell others about Jesus. Jesus is still the only name in heaven and earth whereby we can be saved. We can still grow in our knowledge and practice of Scripture. We can still baptize new disciples, and their children. We can still eat the bread and drink the cup, and feast on Christ in our hearts and be healed. We can still pray. Yes, the world is topsy turvy, and spinning wild and fast all around us. So, why are we not Chicken Little about it? Because while it is true that everything has changed, it is more true that absolutely nothing has changed. And the church still has its unchanging work to do, and Jesus will help us.

It is *his ministry, after all.*

Pastor Rich

FINANCE

August 15, 2026

Financial Position

Year To Date Income

SUNDAY SCHOOL	$1,139.75
WORSHIP OFFERING	$142,642.66
ONLINE GIVING	$84,695.91
CELL TOWER INCOME	$23,992.71
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	$50,489.60
TOTAL	$302,960.63

YTD INCOME	$302,960.63
YTD EXPENSES	$377,036.71
Reserves Spent	($74,076.08)

Contributions

January	$24,905.00
February	$27,119.02
March	$61,216.92
April	$49,346.68
May	$22,065.65
June	$49,658.89
July	$35,914.76
August (1/2 a month)	$8,741.00
Total Contributions	$278,967.92

SESSION UPDATES

Old Business:

▪ Bylaw discussion- On Hold – see motions below – Will remove next agenda

▪ Motions from Admin: ▪ MOTION #1: Admin moves to reopen the project evaluating the officers and committees of MCPC to develop recommendations for Session regarding committee responsibilities and officer duties to take effect January 1, 2027. with a targeted completion date of 1/1/2027. – *Approved with noted changes.*

▪ MOTION #2: Admin moves that the bylaws project be reopened to incorporate changes, if necessary, from the officer project and any other updates identified by the Session, subject to congregational approval. – *Approved*

▪ MOTION #3: Admin moves that Carey Armistead be added to the Personnel Committee effective immediately. The Personnel Committee will now include: Becky Wood (Elder) - Chair, Julie Mingus (Deacon), Shawnee Wakeman (Deacon), Carey Armistead and Nancy Busch. – *Approved*

▪ MOTION #4: Admin moves that the MCPC Preschool Board of Directors slate, as voted on and approved by the Preschool Board at its August 10 meeting, be approved – See attached. - *Approved*

▪ Update on Youth and Family coordinator position – Position filed in July – will remove from Section. – Will remove next agenda

▪ Committee updates – Finance, Youth & Children, Education & Spiritual Nurture, Worship, Property and Admin
July Financial report:

- July 2026 income was more than July 2026 expenses by $4,360.
- Year 2026 income was less than Year 2026 expenses by $29,020.
- NOTE: Income includes $41,993 in "special" income and $50,490 in "one time".
- July 2026 contributions were $8,783 less than July 2025 contributions.
- YTD 2026 contributions were $26,300 less than YTD 2025 contributions.

New Business:

- Transitional Pastor Committee update – Position filled in July – will remove from Section next agenda

• Motions from Property:

- MOTION #1: Property moves for the Session to approve the revised Rental Agreement and Guidelines and to start making the areas available to rent. – Agreement presented to Session at meeting. *Tabled for review.* Everyone is to get notes to Alan by 8/25/26 based on 'Al' version. Property to review after updates in and make recommendation to Session on what to proceed with.
- MOTION #2: Property moves for the Session to approve the Signage quote by QC Signs for the Church property signs. This is a joint project between Property, Connections and Preschool. – *Approved.* Thanks provided to Property, Connections and Pre-school for all their hard work on this. It will truly make our campus more inviting and easier to navigate.
- Approved request by Darrell and Sandra (Cookie) Thomas to be assigned cemetery spaces in MCPC Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee recommends approval.
- Presbytery meeting items and other documents. Update on August Presbytery meeting and other things in the media. – TM shared how meeting went and service for Rich. Passed out handouts for Session to review for discussion in the September meeting.
- Nominating Committee update: 5 of 7 deacons and 4 of 5 elders plus 2 deacons to fill 1 year terms to fill Brian and Kelly Jones after their move. Discussion held on congregational meeting and when to have. Resulted in motion to hold congregational meeting to elect both deacons and elders on October 18th following the service. *Approved.*

• Key updates from Deacon's meeting – Communion – Please remember deacons counting. Said they were forgotten last two communion services. Gathering Space – Elders still needed to help fill in where needed and do lock-up.

MCPC PRESCHOOL

EXPLORE DISCOVER GROW

Well, it is time for us to open our doors to start another exciting preschool year. Our staff have been working hard to get everything ready for the 2026-2027 school year. The staff took CPR/1st Aid training, attended a great workshop by Child and Family Resources, and spent countless hours planning, decorating, and preparing for their students. They are looking forward to seeing everyone and kicking off another wonderful year at MCPCP! Our Parent Orientation is on Tuesday, September 1st, at 6 pm in the church sanctuary and then we will welcome the students and their families at Open House on Thursday, September 3rd. The new school year officially begins on Tuesday, September 8th, when we start bringing all the "happy" children from the car rider line to start off a great year together.

Our staff would like to thank Brian Wasko for everything that he did for us during his tenure as the Chairperson of our Preschool Board of Directors! THANK YOU so much!

We would also like to welcome Michel Lapalombella as the new Chairperson of our Preschool Board of Directors! We look forward to working with her over the next few years.

Our parent representatives this year are Ms. Jackie Triece and Ms. Latoria Massey. Jackie's daughter is in one of our 3's classes and her son is in one of our 2's classes. Latoria's son is in one of our 3's classes and her daughter is in one of our classes. We are so grateful to each one of them for taking on this role this year and for doing all that they do for us throughout the school year. THANK YOU!

If you love children and would like to earn a little extra money, we would love for you to be a substitute teacher at the preschool! We have Substitute Trainings coming up on Wednesday, Sept. 16th, and Thursday, Sept. 17th, at 9:30 a.m. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call our office at 704-549-9741 or email paiget@mallardcreekchurch.org or kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org.

Please join us on Thursday, September 24th, at Sweet Frog across from Concord Mills for our first big fundraiser of the school year. Drop in any time between 3 and 10 p.m., tell them that you are with "Mallard Creek Preschool" and our preschool will receive 20% of your sale.

If you have free time and LOVE books, we need volunteers for our Fall Scholastic Book Fair, which will be October 12th-15th. Please email Paige or Kristy at the above email addresses if you would like to help.

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 with each of you and seeing where God leads us.

The Bible stories that Ms. Robin Fuller will tell the children in Children's Church this month are Jesus Helps the Blind Man See and Jesus Quiets the Storm.

Our Bible verse for this month is: I am a child of God. ~ Psalm 82:6

The preschool and the preschool office will be closed on Monday, September 21st, for a CMS Workday.



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."

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

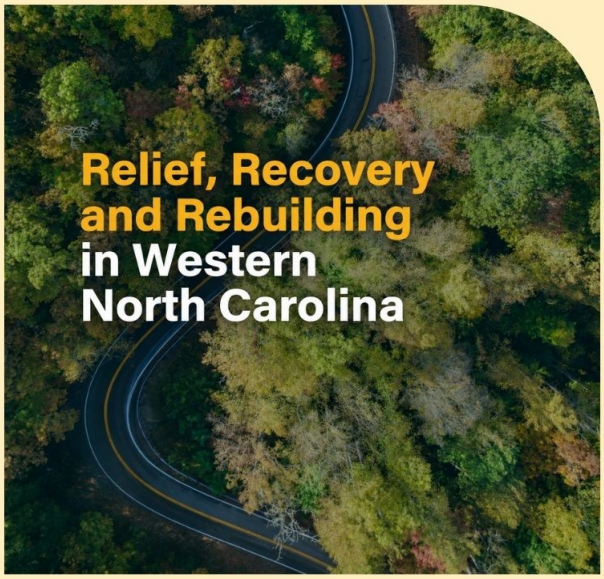


This year, *in addition to the items we collect to send home with the children on weekends*, the school is telling us that when children arrive late and miss being able to get breakfast at school, or when they have an early lunch and don't get home until 4:OO, the teachers would like to have snacks in the classroom to offer them.
They've asked for:

- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Peanut Butter crackers
- Fruit cups
- Lunch size bags of chips, Goldfish, Cheerios, or pretzels
- Pop Tarts
- Fruit snacks
- Little Bites

Missions

MISSION OPPORTUNITY



There is still so much to be done to rebuild Western North Carolina following Hurricane Helene.

With no BBQ in October, how about joining a Mission Trip to Spruce Pine for Hurricane Relief? We would leave on a Sunday afternoon and return Friday after our work is completed.
Beds and meals are provided by the Baptist on a Mission Camp.

If you're interested, please get in touch with James Killian, and let him know what week in October would be best for you. Once a date has been determined, he'll contact everyone for a total head count.

James Killian
jhkilliansr@yahoo.com
980-722-7910



FOOD DRIVE

Our Summer Food Drive, was a great success - MCPC collected 187 pounds of food to donate to the Cooperative Christian Ministry in Concord.

Missions

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, October 4
10:00am-2:00pm
Dining Hall



- Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and or platelets.
- Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U. S.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 units.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
- Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer donors

AUGUST

was a VERY busy month at Mallard Creek!

SOOOO many great things happened!



August was a busy month at Mallard Creek!
Rich and April joined us!





Jean Helms



We welcomed Presbyterian mission alum from Cameroon!



We went visiting!



We had a wedding!



Congratulations to Alicia & Gregory!



Our Newcomers Luncheon was an incredible success!



What a great day!



The Fellowship Committee provided a great meal!



We had @ 50 guests!



The Connections Committee did an amazing job!

YOUTH & TEENS

Something Amazing Is On The Way

CHILDREN'S CHURCH COMING SOON!

We are excited to announce plans to restart Children's Church, hopefully beginning September 13!

Children's Church will be a special worship experience designed specifically for our younger children. Our goal is not simply to give children a place to go during worship, but to help them experience, understand, and participate in worship in ways that make sense to them.

Children will remain in the sanctuary through the passing of the peace and will receive a special blessing before being invited to Children's Church. There they will experience many of the same elements of worship—singing, prayer, Scripture, a call to worship, and Bible teaching—while also having opportunities for movement, participation, activities, and acting out Bible stories.
We want children to learn that worship is more than sitting quietly and listening. They have a place in God's church, their faith matters, and they can actively participate in worship.

Children's Church will be an option for families, and children will always be welcome to remain in the regular worship service. We are planning to offer Children's Church three Sundays each month, giving children opportunities to experience both age-appropriate worship and worship with the whole church family.

If you would like to be a helper please let April know and she will discuss with you this exciting opportunity.

More details coming soon!

Youth & Teens Putt Putt Family Day

RSVP by Sept 9
apatek@mallardcreekchurch.org

- Sunday, September 13 @ 2:00
- Family event for all children, teens, their adults & friends!
- No charge for golf & snacks
- TV's in the game room for parents who want to watch the Panther's game

110 Barton Creek Dr.
Charlotte



A MALLARD CREEK FAMILY

FALL FESTIVAL

FOOD | GAMES | BOUNCE HOUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
12:00-2:00
AT THE CHURCH

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

The Church will be providing hot dogs, drinks, popsickles and a bounce house.
We need volunteers to bring games, side dishes, set up and monitor stations.
Please use the link below to sign up!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44A5AB2BA4FCC43-65434488-mallard#/

Sunday School Interest

Are you interested in teaching or attending, please complete the online form or a paper copy in Gathering Space.

Please complete by 8/31

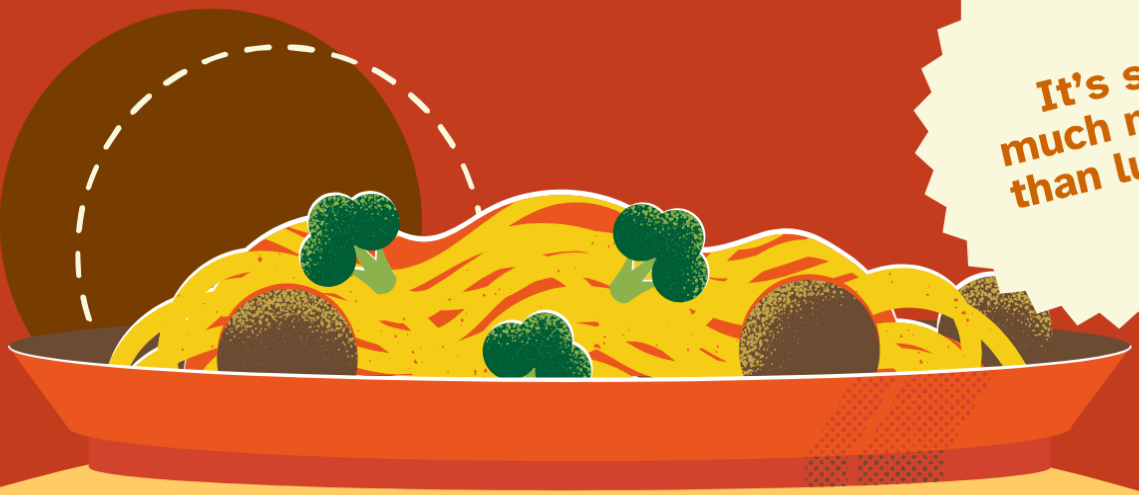


Questions, contact Jamie Garrison

jamie.garrison@cabarrus.k12.nc.us

Older Adult Ministry

LUNCH BUNCH



It's so much more than lunch!

This month's program will be presented by Officer Michael Kossick, CMPD. He will be sharing some very important information on home security, personal safety, identy theft, and emergency preparedness.

Lunch will be catered by the Harrisburg Family Restaurant and will be baked chicken, rice, salad, rolls , and dessert.
Cost is $8.00 per person

Contact Margaret Hatton (704-651-6678) or Jimmy Walker (614-537-5363with questions or cancellations.

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
Cemetery Rules and Guidelines

The Cemetery Committee (CC) which shall be a standing committee of the church, under the Property Committee, shall manage the cemetery. It shall consist of three members plus the chair of Property. The church session shall appoint the members yearly. The CC will assign lots to members, mark grave sites, mark stone placements, enforce cemetery guidelines, answer cemetery questions and make recommendations to the session on cemetery matters.

1. MCPC will assign cemetery lots to its members upon their request and the availability of lots.

2. In the event of a death with no prior assignment of a plot, the cemetery committee will assign the plot for burial.

3. These lots may be used for the burial of assigned member and his/her immediate family. Immediate family shall consist of spouse, parents and minor children (<18).

4. The cemetery is designed for the burial of earthly remains in a casket. The burial of ashes is not permitted in the cemetery BUT the church columbarium is available. (SEE: Columbarium and Memorial Wall rules and guidelines).

5. All caskets must be encased in a concrete vault to prevent settling or collapse of the site.

6. All grave sites must be marked by one or preferably two members of the cemetery committee prior to the opening of the grave.

7. No parcels of land are ever sold and therefore no deeds are issued.

8. When a person ceases to be a member of MCPC (by their request or by session action), any cemetery lots previously assigned to them but not yet used will be reassigned by the church EXCEPT

· If after one spouse is buried in the MCPC cemetery and the second spouse moves his or her membership or is removed from the church rolls by the church session, then a second lot may be retained for their burial if they wish.

9. Markers (head and / or footstones) may be placed in accordance with the adopted cemetery guidelines and the approval of the cemetery committee. (See marker requirements).

10. Flower arrangements, real or artificial, may be placed as desired; HOWEVER, the person placing the flowers is also responsible for removing them before they become faded or unsightly.

· Permanent flower holders may not be above ground level, except those which are part of a monument.

· Any deteriorated flowers will be removed by the cemetery committee.

· Decorative or American Flags which have become faded or torn will be removed by the cemetery committee.

11. Trees and / or shrubs may be planted only with prior consent of the CC.

12. Funeral homes opening a grave in the cemetery will be responsible for the removal of surplus dirt when the grave is closed. Sod removed when opening a grave will be saved and replaced.

13. MCPC requires every family to supply police officers to assist persons crossing the road for all services across Mallard Creek Church Road. **This requirement is not an option.** To use the MCPC cemetery the officers must be present.

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
Cemetery Rules and Guidelines
MARKERS

1. All head and footstones will be placed in accordance with the church guidelines (SEE drawings).

2. The location for all markers must be marked by one or two members of the CC prior to placement.

3. Drawings from the stone supplier must be given to the CC for review prior to ordering.

4. Headstones shall be no more than thirty-six (36) inches tall, including the base AND no more than seventy (70) inches wide (or forty (40) inches for a single plot), including the base.

5. Headstones may have “family” name on both sides, HOWEVER full individual names including date of birth and date of death must read from the foot of the grave. (East side).

6. If a footstone is to be used with no family headstone, the footstone must always be placed at the foot of the grave and read from the foot.

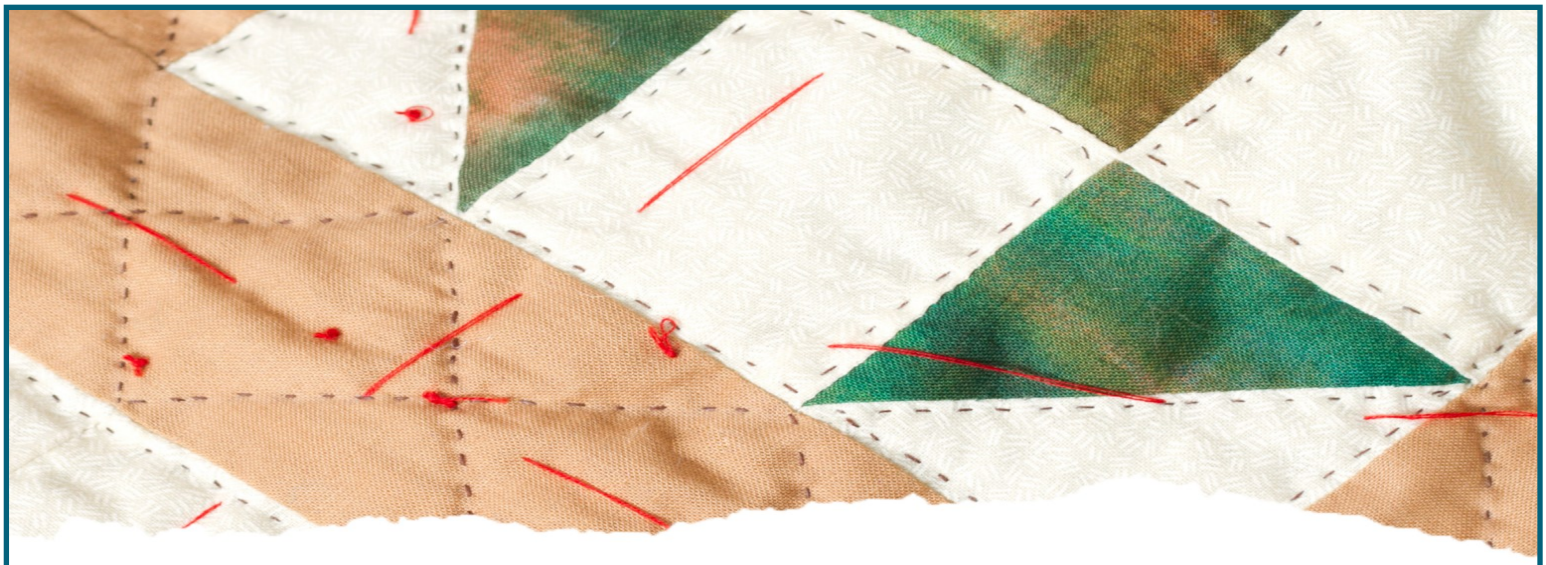
7. A four (4) inch wide and four (4) inch deep straight concrete border shall surround all head and footstones at ground level.

8. Military footstones will be placed on the east end of the plot and read from the east. HOWEVER if the plot is a two sided plot (See example B), the footstone shall be placed on the west end and read from the west.

9. Corner markers shall only be placed where marked by the CC and not be above ground level.

10. Coping and walls shall not be erected in the cemetery. Any existing walls which are not kept neat and trimmed regularly by the families involved will be removed after a reasonable time.

11. Permanent flower holders may not be above ground level, except those which are part of a monument.



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY
THANK YOU'S

Dear MCPC Quilters,
I can't thank you all enough for praying for me and sewing the beautiful prayer quilt during my recent surgery. It is such a blessing to be a part of this community of faith! God bless you all for the loving work you do for His kingdom.

Lynn Davidson

I have received one of your beautiful blankets and it means so much to me. I had an unfortunate fall and broke my femur at the hip joint. It has been an emotional and mental challenge for me and I could feel your blessings. Thank you for what you do for others.

Catherine Moore

THANK YOU

A very special thank you to Harvey Alexander and James Killian for the beautiful, durable ramp they made for our home. Ben is home and is able to get into our home with this work of art. Our thanks also to Sonja Benton for arranging the wheelchair for Ben. God blessed us richly with special brothers and sisters in Christ at MCPC. We send our love and appreciation to everyone for their cards, thoughts, prayers and meals.

XOXO

With love, the Hatton Family



Special Prayers

Bobby & Nina Brown
Donny Brown
Christian Busch
Alex Busch
Bill Cochran
Doris DeArmon
Sheila DeArmon
Mary Jean Dowling
Guy Eberhart
Rima Frika

Ben Hatton
Jean Helms
Susie Householder
Daisy Huber
Shirley Hunter
Phyllis Jones
Betsy Killian
Jessica Killian
Merle King
Sheila Letica
Elaine Lord

Bebe McGee
Bobbie Misenheimer
Donnie Oehler
Rose Oehler
Tommy Oehler
John Potts
Donna Seaford
Earl Thomas
Jane Thomas
Lois Treadway

SEPTEMBER OFFICERS ON DUTY

ELDERS:
Jamie Garrison, Perry Deaton,
Greg Armistead

DEACONS:
Julie Mingus, Susan Mach,
Debbie Dowling, Felix Tangyie



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3 Rich Lambert Will Oehler Kimberly Stiffel	4
5 Justin Alford Lynn Davidson Terry Wilkinson	6	7	8 Janet Dalelio Brittany Heath JackMiles	9	10	11
12	13 Jessica Killian	14	15 Tammy Alford Scott Dixon Bobbie Meisenheimer	16 Nell Lawing Linda Baker	17 Alex Busch Pam Whitmire	18 Jane Isenhower Charlotte McConnell
19 Bobby Brown	20 Bernadine Sosoo	21 Jimmy Walker	22 Ed Gulledge	23	24	25 Elcie Pavlick
26 James DeArmon Jr	27	28 Phil Ashley McKenzie Kimrey Erin Mitchell Lorraine Ndingwan Deborah Wilson	29 Blaine Kimrey Doreen Smith	30 Dewayne Kinman Jamie Garrison Austin Alexander	31	

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road
Charlotte, NC 28262

Mallard Creek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Richard Lambert	Transitional Pastor
The Rev. Hunter Roddey	Transitional Associate Pastor
April Patek	Director of Family Ministry
Ms. Amanda Killian	Financial Manager
Mr. David Barnaba	Director of Music
Mrs. Kristy Maddux	Preschool Director
Terri Smith	Office Administrator