



The Scroll

MallardCreek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From Tommy Mitchell

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

Looking Ahead to Spring

As we move into February, I find myself thinking about this time of year. For me, February feels like the last month of winter—even though I know it isn't. I'm always looking ahead, and that naturally leads me to think about spring and all that it brings.

Those who know me know I don't enjoy the limelight. I prefer to work behind the scenes and contribute quietly. Stepping into the Clerk role in mid-2025 pushed me well outside my comfort zone. Still, given the circumstances, I felt that continuity was important, so I volunteered to serve through 2026.

If I'm being honest, I was disappointed in how the congregational meeting went. I place that partly on myself. I relied too heavily on standard Presbytery language rather than translating it into everyday terms, and I believe that caused confusion. I also recognize that emotions were still very raw. People were hurting, healing, and wanting to be heard.

Please remember that there are always two sides to any situation. Every Session member I know—past and present—wants what's best for Mallard Creek. Our elders are duly elected representatives who take that responsibility seriously. Trusting them matters... and perhaps consider saying "yes" the next time you're asked to serve.

That brings me back to my original theme: Spring.

When I think of spring, I think of planting seeds, tending them with care, and waiting for new growth to emerge and bloom. I truly believe that Mallard Creek is on that path—just on a different timeline. In nature, spring planting often yields results in four to six months. For us, it may look more like twelve, eighteen, or even twenty-four months.



Another important part of spring for me is Easter. Once again, rebirth takes center stage. I think of the Apostles' Creed: *"On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty."* Rebirth.

I recently heard a quote while driving and shared it at our January Session meeting: *When God starts us on His task, He equips us for the journey. We are embarking on a journey, and He will be with us every step of the way.*

As I close, I believe we all want Mallard Creek to be strong, faithful, and vibrant. That means approaching this season with grace, kindness, patience, and understanding. Our Session Moderator, Joe B. Martin, often reminds us: *If we are serious about discovering God's will, it has to be okay for us to disagree with each other—and still be with each other.*

Blessings,

Tommy Mitchell
Clerk of Session

Rise SM e

AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

Get ready for Mallard Creek's 14th Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Saturday, February 7 at 9:00am in the Dining Hall! We'll assemble 15,000 meals that will be distributed to third world countries. Unlike some other mission events, this is a great family activity; children of all ages can help, even those with limited mobility.

It is extremely important to register in advance for your attendance and we need a minimum of 40 volunteers. Doing so will both save time the morning of the event and allow us to plan accordingly.

Please use this link:

<https://riseagainsthunger.org/register/?id=701Pj00000VrnARIAZ>

To date we've packaged over 213,000 meals over the course of 13 events dating back to 2011 and the meals we packed last February were sent to the Philippines shortly after our event.

Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations there that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers.

If you've joined us before, you already know what a fun, fulfilling activity this is and how we can pack these many meals in just a couple of hours! If you haven't, bring the entire family on February 7 and witness how we can make a difference in other parts of the world.

Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. The organization provides volunteer-packaged meals and other assistance, often through school feeding programs, to support nutrition, education and health for children and families facing hunger right now. Rise Against Hunger also partners with local leaders to implement sustainable agriculture and income-generating projects that support long-term solutions to food security and empower communities to become self-reliant and thrive.

Learn more about the organization by visiting their website: www.riseagainsthunger.org.

If you need help registering, please call Paul Menconi at 704-574-8039

Meet Guest Pastor

Amanda Shanks

Amanda Shanks is a recent graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte and holds a Master of Divinity degree. Before pursuing a call to ministry, she worked as a licensed clinical mental health therapist at the Mecklenburg County Jail and in private practice, specializing in reproductive and maternal mental health. She is a three-time Clark Scholar for Excellence in Greek Language and Excellence in Greek and Hebrew Exegesis. Amanda enjoys reading, teaching, photography and sitting down with friends over a really good meal.



**Amanda will be leading us in Worship this
Sunday, February 8,
as well as Ash Wednesday, on February 18, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

Transitional Pastor Team

A 3 member Transitional Pastor Team is being formed, chaired by Drew Dowling, and the Session believes that congregational involvement is a meaningful way for us all to be a part of this process. We are inviting you to participate by nominating people to serve on this committee.

A nomination box is available in the Gathering Space, and nominations will be accepted for the next 2 Sundays.

Session Notes

February 2026

Items of note from January Session meeting of 1/20/2026

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Pastor Joe B Martin
- A quorum was declared present by the moderator.
- Report of people needing prayer in the congregation. Provided by Keri from Hunter.
- Approved agenda.
- Read and Approved Session minutes of November 25, 2025, Called Session meeting of December 9, 2025, Called Session meeting of December 14, 2025, Called Session meeting of December 21, 2025 and Called Session meeting of January 6, 2026.
- Received December financial report:
- December income was more than December expenses by \$ 58,789.
- Year 2025 income **was less** than Year 2025 expenses by \$ 7,755.
- **NOTE:** Income includes \$72,533 in "special" income and \$75,774 in "one time".
- Year 2025 contributions were \$52,408 **less** than Year 2024 contributions
- Year 2024 contributions were \$101,226 **less** than Year 2023 contributions.
- Approved motions:
- Approved updating the requests from the following members to be removed from MCPC rolls:
 - Fred and Catherine Campbell
 - Don and Debbie Killian
 - Christine and Peter Shankey along with their child Emily
 - Daniel and Jennifer Messina along with children Clara, Sophia & Natalie
 - Christina and Christian de Kam along with children Ava, Evelyn, Leonardo and Roman
- Approved motion from Property to lease ball fields to travel baseball group
- Approved motion from Property to add Sanctuary handrail
- Approved motion from Finance to add line item to the budget for Supply Pastors
- Approved motion from Finance to add line item to the budget for Youth leader
- Approved motion from Finance to add processes around Worker's Comp Claims
- Approved motion to have a joint Diaconate Session meeting in February
- Approved motion to suspend early service until a Transitional Pastor is in place
- Elected Clerk of Session for 2026 – Approved Tommy Mitchell
- Elected Assistant Clerk of Session for 2026 – Approved Keri Wass
- Elected Treasurer for MCPC for 2026 – Approved Jack Miles
- Elected Nominating Committee Vice Chair for 2026 – Approved Kristi Maddux
- Approved Special Committees :Personnel, Technology, Child Development – removing Brian Wasko as Chair and adding Keri Wass as Treasurer, Cemetery and Columbarium – adding Jeff Garrison, rolled Safety and Security committee under Property and rolled MCPC Assistance Fund under Mission committee
- Approved creation of Transitional Pastor Team – Drew Dowling volunteered to Chair
- Approved to schedule Congregational Meeting – March 1st 2026 – Business to cover;
 1. 2026 Budget
 2. 2025 Annual report from Session
 3. Elect at-large members of Nominating committee
 4. Report from Administration committee on MCPC bylaws.

January Financial Report

January 15, 2026
Financial Position

Year To Date Income

SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$99.00
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$5,725.00
ONLINE GIVING	\$6,503.00
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$0.00
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$0.00
TOTAL	<u>\$12,327.00</u>

YTD INCOME	\$12,327.00
YTD EXPENSES	\$34,661.69
Reserves Spent	<u>(\$22,334.69)</u>

Contributions

January (1/2 a month)	<u>\$12,327.00</u>
Total Contributions	<u>\$12,327.00</u>

Reminder from Amanda

All tax receipts have been
mailed/emailed.

If you are missing yours, please
contact Amanda
penny@mallardcreekchurch.org
or 704-547-0038 ext 13

A big THANK YOU to Pastor Rob for visiting with our students last month to tell them about the church, his job at the church, who else works at the church, when we have church, what we do in church, and the reasons why we have the pulpit, stained glass windows, etc. It was bittersweet because it was our best visit with Pastor Rob and it was also our last visit. The children brought cards that they made for Pastor Rob, and everyone thanked him for all he has done for all of us.



Last month, we had a visit from Mr. Ed's Live Dinosaurs, too, which was a big hit with not only our students but our teachers, too. Mr. Ed puts on a great show and his dinosaurs and helpers are very entertaining, too. Everyone had a lot of fun and learned some interesting facts about dinosaurs.

Our Pre-K classes have been collecting food items for Backpack Blessings and are looking forward to their visit with Ms. Maria Menconi so they can share their collections with her and learn more about this great ministry that Ms. Maria and her helpers do throughout the year.

February is a busy month for us! It is Dental Health Month so the students will talk about brushing their teeth, keeping their mouth healthy, and eating healthy foods. They will also learn about communication, expressing their feelings, loving their family, day and night, and the sun, moon, and stars. Our children will also celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating bags, making valentines, exchanging valentines with their friends, and having classroom celebrations.

On Groundhog Day, we will be watching to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not. If so, we will have six more weeks of winter. (Let us hope that does not happen since in the past week, we have had ice and over 12 inches of snow.)

Our three-year-old classes will have their Annual Multi-cultural Day this month. Each teacher will represent a country, and then they will visit each classroom and instruct the students about their country by telling them interesting facts, showing them dances, playing games, and letting the students sample different foods from each of these countries.

On February 12th, our staff will host Room in the Inn. Providing food for the participants and helpers and eating a meal with them is such a rewarding experience and we are so grateful to be a part of this wonderful ministry at MCPC.

REGISTRATION for the 2026-2027 school year is OPEN! We would LOVE to have your child join us at MCPCP next year! The deadline for Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church members to register is 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, February 12th through the Brightwheel software system. If you would like more information or want to schedule a tour, please email Paige Tait at paiget@mallardcreekchurch.org or call the preschool office at 704-549-9741.

Do you LOVE to Read? If so, we would LOVE for you to come and read to our children during our March Reading Program, which begins on March 2nd and ends on March 31st. You can come and read in person, facetime us, or send us a video of you reading a book. If you are interested, please email Kristy at kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! It will be in the bus garage from March 2nd through 5th. The book fair will be OPEN for church members to shop on Sunday, March 1st, after the 10:30 church service and online (link will be shared next month). If you would like to help with the book fair that week, please email Kristy at the email address above or call the preschool office at the above number.

The stories that Ms. Robin will share in Children's Church this month are David and Goliath, Jesus Loves the Children, Jesus Heals the Lame Man, and Adam and Eve.

Our Nursery Rhyme for this month is: I'm A Little Teapot.

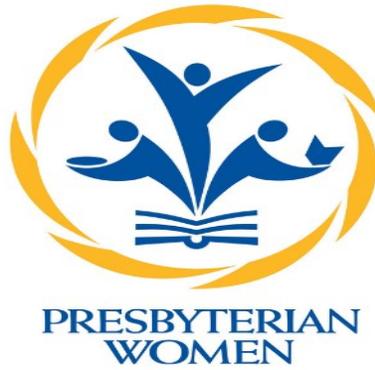
Our Bible verse for this month is: "I will be glad and rejoice in You." Psalm 9:2

2026-2027 REGISTRATION AT MCPCP

OPENS JANUARY 26, 2026



Email PaigeT@mallardcreekchurch.org or Call 704-549-9741 for more information!



Circle Meetings

Circle of Rebekah-Ruth

(Postpone due to weather) Monday, Feb 9 at 6:00pm
The Gathering Space

Circle of Mary-Anna

(Pending weather) Tuesday, February 3 at 10:30am
Garrison-Martin Room

Blanket Sunday

February 22

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors—especially in their time of need.

A simple blanket becomes a holy offering: warmth on a cold night, peace after disaster,
and a reminder that no one is forgotten by God.

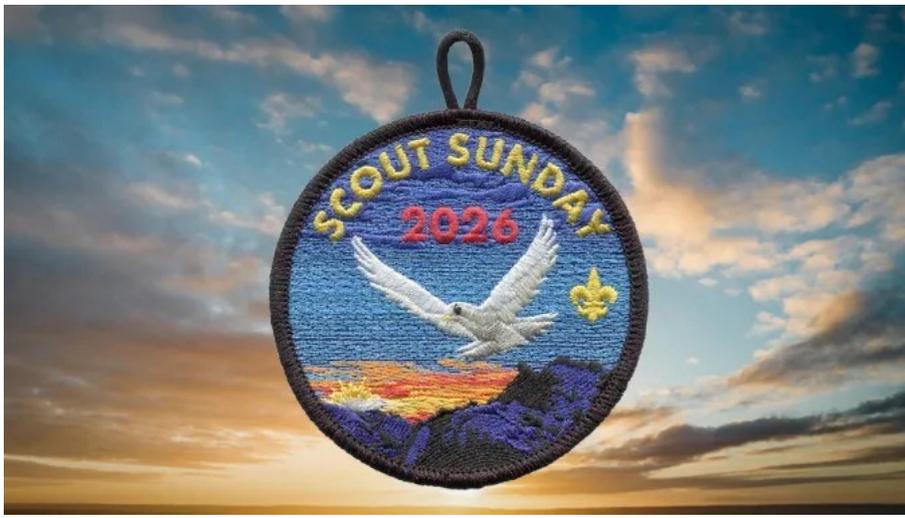
- ◆ \$10 Provides a blanket to someone in need
- ◆ \$25 Provides a blanket and hygiene kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.
- ◆ \$60 Provides blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family, ensuring that they have what they need during challenging times.

Lifetime Membership Nominations

An Honorary Life Membership in *Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, is conferred upon an individual in recognition of faithful service in some area of church work, such as, but not limited to, moderators, leaders, teachers, officers, pastors, and missionaries. Those honored may have committed service to Presbyterian Women or the church in various ways.

Nomination forms are available in Circle Meetings and in the Gathering Space

Nominations are accepted until March 31, 2026



Join us on Sunday, February 8 to celebrate Scout Sunday

The Scouting program at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors. Scouting provides fun, fellowship and training to our youth as well as youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship and personal fitness. But the success of our Scouting depends on our volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so that our young people may benefit from our Scouting ministry. As Scouting America celebrates its anniversary, we salute the splendid volunteers who serve as Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Sea Scout Skippers and Venturing Advisors, and in other positions of leadership. Our Scout unit(s) would like to invite you and your family to be a part of their program.

Rescheduled

The Congregational Care Committee presents

Care Talk: "Finding Peace in a Stressful World"

featuring Linda Serepca,
Director of the Charlotte Spirituality Center

Sunday **February 15th** at 11:30 in the Dining Hall
following worship



ROOM IN THE INN

Thursday, February 12 and 26

We are still in need of INNKEEPERS to spend the night with our guests on Feb 26.

We also need a couple more bus drivers. No special drivers license is required,
Just a valid NC license.

If you're able to help, please call Robin Fuller or Mary Baker, or you can sign up
in the Chapel or Gathering Space.

YOUTH and TEENS

Sunday, February 8

Bonappeteens will be serving breakfast in the Dining Hall at 9am

Youth Group will be meeting at 3:00pm in the Dining Hall

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 8

Join us as we celebrate the Scouts that all meet
here at Mallard Creek.

CARE TALK

Sunday, February 15

Join us for this rescheduled event at 11:30am in the Dining Hall following the service.

Light refreshments will be served.

Linda Serepca will be leading a discussion entitled "Finding Peace in a Stressful World"

LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, February 17 at 12:00 in the Dining Hall

Our next Lunch Bunch will be our famous Chocolate Party! Think about all those tasty chocolate desserts that you would like to share and get ready to hear a love story, and some love jokes. Feel free to bring any photos of your wedding or fun times of days gone by. We will have a table set up for photos for all to enjoy. Please join us for lots of fun!

The Harrisburg Family Restaurant will cater our meal, which will consist of baked ziti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, and green beans. Dessert will find us indulging in all our delicious chocolate desserts!

*If you are a Lunch Bunch Regular, and are unable to make it,
please call Margaret Hatton or Jimmy Walker.*

FRIDAY NIGHT RECESS

Friday, February 20 at 7:00pm in the Dining Hall

This successful program is ready for the new year!
Join us on Friday for a night of fun, games, snacks and fellowship!

NOURISH UP VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday, March 7 from 9:00am-11:00am

At the Nourish Up Warehouse

A sign up sheet is available in the Gathering Space for this event.
The age limit has been changed—it is now age 13 and up!

2026 Session Committee Leadership

Tommy Mitchell, Clerk of Session

Keri Wass, Assistant Clerk of Session

Jack Miles, MCPC Treasurer

Committee	Class	Name	
<i>Administrative</i>	E27	Keri Wass, Chair	
	E26	Greg Armistead	
	E26	Suzanne Curtis	
	E28	Alan Garrison	
	E28	Jamie Garrison	
	E27	Tommy Mitchell	
	E27	Becky Wood	
	D26	Charlotte McConnell / Julie Mingus	
<i>Educ/Spiritual Nurture</i>	E28	Jamie Garrison, Chair	
	E27	Michel Lampolabella, V. Chair	
	D26	Jordan Maddox	
<i>Finance</i>	E27	Becky Wood, Chair	
	E27	Keri Wass, V. Chair	
	E27	Tommy Mitchell	
	E26	Jack Miles	
	D27	Eric Johnson	
<i>Property **</i>	E28	Alan Garrison, Chair	
	E28	Perry Deaton, V. Chair	
	E26	Terri Garrison	
	E26	Bob Oehler	
	D28	Lynn Davidson	
<i>Worship</i>	E28	Greg Armistead, Chair	
	E27	Harvey Alexander, V. Chair	
	E28	Drew Dowling	
	D28	Debbie Dowling	
	D26	Julie Mingus	
<i>Youth & Children</i>	E26	Suzanne Curtis, Chair	
	E28	Kristy Maddux, V. Chair	
	E28	Jamie Garrison	
	D26	Charlotte McConnell	
<i>Nominating</i>	E27	Michel Lampolabella, Chair	
	E28	Kristy Maddux, V. Chair	
(plus 4 church members)			
	D27	Kim Tucker	

2026 Diaconate Committee Leadership

Charlotte McConnell, Co-Chair

Julie Mingus, Co-Chair

Committee	Class	Name
<i>Congregational Care</i>	D26	Charlotte McConnell, Chair
	D26	Susan Mach
	D28	Shawnee Wakeman
<i>Connections</i>	D26	Lee McConnell, Chair
	D27	Rima Frika
	D28	Felix Tangyie
<i>Fellowship</i>	D27	Debra Johnson, Chair
	D27	Kim Tucker
	D26	Julie Mingus
<i>Mission **</i>	D26	Tom Baker, Chair
	D26	Tracy Tucker

2026 Special Committees **

<i>Barbeque</i>		Charles Kimrey
		Bill Wood
<i>Cemetary & Columbarium</i>	E26	Bob Oehler
		Calvin Caldwell
		Jeff Garrison
		James Killian
		Larry Oehler
<i>Child Development Board</i>		TBD, Chair
		James Killian, Elder
	E26	Bob Oehler, Elder
		Barbara Oehler
		Leigh Johnson
		Erika Miller, Parent Rep
		Jackie Tiece, Parent Rep
	E28	Kristy Maddux, Director
	E27	Keri Wass, Treasurer
<i>Personnel</i>	E27	Becky Wood, Chair
		Nancy Busch
	D26	Julie Mingus
	D28	Shawnee Wakeman
<i>Technology</i>		Phil Ashley
	E28	Drew Dowling
		Mack Downing
		Charles Kimrey

Special Prayers

February 2026

Avonda Albright
 Edward Apolar
 Clyde and Linda Benfield
 Ann & Jimmy Brown
 Bobby Brown
 Christian Busch (Nancy/Tom's son)
 Alex Busch (Nancy/Tom's daughter)
 Bill Cochran
 Sheila DeArmon
 Perry Deaton
 Dawn Drye (friend of the Busch's)
 Guy Eberhart
 Rima Frika

Eliza Furr (friend of Linda Preslar)
 Brenda Garrison
 Ben and Carl Hatton
 Jean Helms
 Barry Hinson
 Daisy Huber (5 year old friend of Suzanne Curtis)
 Janet Hunter
 Shirley Hunter
 Dennis Johnson
 Linda Jones (Jane Eisenhower's sister)
 Phyllis Jones
 Betsy Killian
 Sheila Letica
 Elaine Lord

Bebe McGee
 Bobbie Misenheimer
 Bill Mitchell
 Donnie Oehler
 Tommy Oehler
 Eddy Pitsenbarger (friend of the Whitmires)
 Bryan Pouliot (friend of the Alexanders')
 Brian Saal (friend of Brian Wasko)
 Donna Seaford
 Jerry Smith (friend of Brian Wasko)
 Pete Taylor (Terri Garrison's Brother-In-Law)
 Earl Thomas
 Lois Treadway

MALLARD CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ELDER CLASSES

2026	2027	2028
Greg Armistead	Harvey Alexander	Perry Deaton
Suzanne Curtis	Michel Lapalombella	Drew Dowling
Terri Garrison	Tommy Mitchell	Alan Garrison
Jack Miles	Keri Wass	Jamie Garrison
Bob Oehler	Becky Wood	Kristy Maddux

DEACON CLASSES

2026	2027	2028
Tom Baker	Rima Frika	Lynn Davidson
Susan Mach	Debra Johnson	Debbie Dowling
Jordan Maddux	Eric Johnson	Felix Tangyie
Charlotte McConnell	Kim Tucker	Shawnee Wakeman
Lee McConnell		
Julie Mingus		
Tracy Tucker		

February Officers

Elders

Jack Miles, Harvey Alexander, Keri Wass

Deacons

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Colton Monteith	2	3 Reid Wilkinson	4 Sephie Hansen Kelly Oehler Rusty Wallace	5	6 Tamara Massey	7
8 Susan Dove	9	10 Vance Reid Sylvia Sosoo	11 George Zevan	12 Abby Tucker	13	14 Awah Ndingwan
15 Harper Martin	16 James Killian Sr Elaine Lord	17	18 Lynne DiMarco Merte King	19	20 Cassidy Beard Georgie Deaton Zeek Garrison Jan Mullman	21
22 Andy Stiffel	23 Carsyn Cooper	24	25 Elizabeth Benton	26	27 Rosalee Stilman	28 Karen Koerth Bill Wood
29 Caden Clark Lauren Gully	30 Allison Coore Joy Johnson	31				