



# 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

The holiday season suddenly came out of nowhere—just like it does every year. There is still Halloween candy to be eaten! The fridge is still packed with Thanksgiving leftovers! We have no idea where we put the Christmas decorations for the house last year—remember when it seemed like such a good idea to put them ‘somewhere out of the way’ last January? Well, guess what? DECEMBER IS HERE!

Hopefully, we aren’t all in such a state of holiday panic, and even if we are so well organized we have flow charts and spreadsheets for how the tree, table decorations, gift lists, and party commitments that tell us exactly where or when we are supposed to be, I know the season can bring it’s own special stress and angst. We may love Christmas, but there is so much to do!

Let me offer a way into a more silent night as we ready ourselves for Christmas—keep it holy.

I promise that is not a killjoy. It actually can be a way to make our joy more complete, more fulfilling, and perhaps even inject more meaning into all we are doing. Keeping it holy means we approach the celebration of Christ’s birth as did his parents, the shepherds, and the magi. That allows us to delve more deeply into the wonder and miracle of Christmas, avoiding a lot of the noise that seems to surround the holiday.

Mary and Joseph met the impending birth of Jesus with mixed emotions. Mary was terrified—this was her first child—she was really young. Yet, she was also full of awe—God had chosen her from among all the women of the world to be the mother of God’s Son. There is not one of us who could actually get our heads around that. And there was joy—her first child was on his way! There was the joy of becoming a mother, of bringing life into the world, and feeling that life grow within her. Joseph was at first horrified—how could this happen? He knew he had nothing to do with it. What is this wild story Mary tells? And yet—he also heard the angel—FEAR NOT! This child was no problem—this child was the new beginning of all the world! Mary was not stained, she was BLESSED! Although he could not understand it, he knew there was reason for joy. God was afoot. Things were changing all around him. That was reason for wonder!

The shepherds burst out of the darkness as a riot of joy and welcome. A Savior was born—but not a savior of just the high and mighty; not just a savior for the holiest of the holy—no—this Savior was for all people! Even dirty, grubby shepherds who spent more time with the sheep than inside a house or among people. This Savior was FOR them, WITH them, and ONE of them! That was more than enough reason to wake up the whole town. God was good and grace abounded! Their Savior is also OUR Savior! ‘Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!’ sand the Apostle Paul.

The magi shouldn’t even be here. They have seen a star in the night sky that shouldn’t be there. Suddenly, nothing is what any of them could have expected or that even made sense. But they have to go—they have to go and see what has happened—who it is who is born into the world. So up they go. The mysteries of God are worth exploring. If God does something, it is always a good thing to see what it is, to take it in, and make it our own. They know enough to bring the strangest set of baby shower gifts the world has ever seen—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This child is a sovereign child—a child destined to rule. This child is a bridge between God and humanity—a spiritual connection that cannot be broken. This child, though, is destined to suffer, becoming one with all who suffer. Through it all, God is changing everything, rewriting the story of humanity, and offering us something new, something holy, and something worthy of worship.

As we think on these reactions and responses to Jesus’ coming birth, we find a way to maintain the sanctity of the season. Our joy comes because God is with us. Our joy deepens because God is for us. Our joy is shareable because God has something for everyone.

Last month, the Pre-K classes celebrated Thanksgiving with their Pre-K Thanksgiving Feast, which was **catered by Melissa Shoupe—the Catering Specialist**. It was an amazing event where the children, staff, families, and volunteers enjoyed great fellowship and delicious food together!

**THANK YOU** to the wonderful volunteers who helped make this year's Thanksgiving Feast such an enormous success: *Harvey Alexander, Monie Alexander, Mack Downing, Rima Frika, Patty Hawks, Bonnie Hodges, Marlene Huneycutt, Jane Isenhower, Sharon Kinman, Susan Mach, Sue Oehler, Linda Wallace, and Pastor Rob Watkins!!!* We could not have done it without you! **THANK YOU!**

This month, we will celebrate Jesus' birth and focus on joy, hope, peace, and love. The students will learn about the true meaning of Christmas by coming together to sing songs, celebrating Jesus' birthday, having pancakes with Jesus, visiting with Santa, having a Christmas celebration in their classroom, and putting on a spectacular Christmas program for their parents and our church family.



You are cordially invited to help us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at MCPCP's Christmas Program on Thursday, December 18, 2025, in the church sanctuary at 11:30 a.m.

Our staff, along with volunteers, will present the Nativity Story and our students will sing Christmas songs for you.

We hope you will join us!!!

You do not want to miss it! 😊

This month, Lions Club members and volunteers from the Kidsight Mobile Screening Program will come to our preschool and conduct free vision screenings for our students. This free vision screening is fast and so worthwhile! Over the last few years, we have had several students recommended for a follow-up with a doctor, which has led to them wearing glasses.

**Mark your calendars now! Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will start on January 26, 2026! Please share with your friends and neighbors and help us continue to grow and learn. (Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church members will have priority over preschool alumni and the public.) Preschool tours will start on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. You can call 704-549-9741 to schedule a tour.**

**The preschool and preschool office will be closed for Christmas break from Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, through Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. We will re-open at 8 a.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026.**

Our Bible verse for this month is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours!!!**



# Meet Our New Members

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## John & Peggy Potts

*John and Peggy moved from Greensburg PA to North Carolina (Taylor Glen Senior Living) in May 2024 to be near to children and grandchildren who all live in the Carolinas. Since moving, Peggy's dementia symptoms increased and she is now in memory care at The Haven in Highland Creek.*

*John and Peggy both were born in Martinsburg WV and attended high school together. Following high school, John graduated from Shepherd University and then joined the military where he served as a pilot in the USMC and USAF for twenty years. John's work career was in glass manufacturing with Corning Glass Works and Lenox Crystal in several plant locations. Peggy was a stay at home Mom for our three children and worked for a hearing aid company for twenty years once our children were educated and had left home for jobs.*

*Peggy is still adapting to her life in The Haven and John visits her for a few hours, pretty much daily. They go out for lunch each week and family members visit her most weeks.*

*We enjoyed being part of the family in the Maplewood Presbyterian Church in Greensburg PA, and we look forward to being part of the Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church family.*

# FINANCE

## Do You Know About Qualified Charitable Distributions? Supporting Charity Through Your IRA

If you are 70.5 years of age or older, you have a unique opportunity to support charitable organizations while also managing your financial situation. By making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$108,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, you can contribute to causes you care about in a tax-efficient manner.

### Benefits of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

- QCDs help ensure that your IRA distributions do not impact your adjusted gross income (AGI), both now and in the future, which means you pay no taxes on that part of your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution)
- This option is available whether you choose the standard deduction or itemize your deductions on your tax return.

If you are subject to a required minimum distribution (RMD), a QCD can count toward fulfilling that requirement.

### Key Considerations

Making a QCD is a straightforward way to support your favorite charities while managing your retirement account distributions efficiently.

To make a QCD to Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, ask your brokerage firm or bank that manages your IRA to make a qualified charitable distribution to Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church by completing a form they will have or requesting an outgoing check.

**Check payments** should be made payable to MCPC and sent to:

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

### Stock Donations:

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, Inc  
1600 W Mallard Creek Church Rd  
Charlotte, NC 29262  
Phone: 704-547-0038

It should be sent to **UBS Financial Services**, account number **C433095 (DTC 0221)**

**Please be sure to call Amanda at the church office:** Tell her the stock is being transferred. She will then show your gift on the church records when the stock transfer is completed. You must call her as UBS does not send the church the donor information.

# NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

November 15, 2025

## Financial Position

### Year To Date Income

SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$3,102.73
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$208,166.61
ONLINE GIVING	\$129,785.00
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$38,277.00
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$65,773.57
TOTAL	<u>\$445,104.91</u>

YTD INCOME	\$445,104.91
YTD EXPENSES	<u>\$529,564.27</u>
<b>Reserves Spent</b>	<b><u>(\$84,459.36)</u></b>

### Contributions

January	\$28,170.00
February	\$32,380.12
March	\$76,191.90
April	\$39,521.00
May	\$26,810.69
June	\$48,755.45
July	\$44,697.75
August	\$25,634.00
September	\$30,159.00
October	\$38,067.00
November (1/2 a month)	<u>\$16,441.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$406,827.91

2025  
*Donations*



Must be at the  
church by  
12/29/25

# MISSION COMMITTEE

## **FOOD DRIVE** (<https://cooperativeministry.com>)

We collected over 269 lbs of food and supplies for CCM, the Cooperative Christian Ministry in Concord. CCM's Mission is to provide immediate assistance to members of our community who are experiencing crisis in the areas of food, housing, or finances while engaging them in a series of actions that will empower them to move beyond crisis. Thank you to Shawnee Wakeman for introducing us to this organization.

## **NOURISH UP** (<https://nourishup.org>)

Nourish Up is in immediate need of drivers for Meals on Wheels and Grocery Deliveries. They have several pick-up locations to make it easier for you. The commitment is 60-90 minutes and opportunities are available Monday-Saturday. Please go to their website to volunteer.

## **ANGEL TREE**

The elves have finished shopping, and Santa has gone over her list many, many times. We're just about ready to deliver our gifts to the schools. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

## **BACKPACK BLESSINGS**

We continue to collect food for students each week to sustain their families over the weekend.

## **ROOM IN THE INN**

We are expecting our first guests this Thursday. The Circle of Rebekah-Ruth will be providing and serving the dinner, and supplying the breakfast, and lunch items. They will have a short meeting following the dinner.



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**Mallard Creek's next Rise Against Hunger meal packing event is right around the corner on February 7, 2026.**

**Mark your calendar now for this event and look for more information in the January Scroll, including how to register for the event.**

**In the meantime, contact Paul Menconi (704) 574-8039 with any questions.**

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# **ROOM IN THE INN**

**Thursday, December 4 & 18th**

The Circle of Rebekah-Ruth will be providing the first meal of the season. We are still in great need of INNKEEPERS to spend the night with our guests—particularly women. If you're able to help, please call Robin Fuller or sign up in the Chapel or Gathering Space.

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# **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**

**Sunday, December 7 at 9:30 in the Sanctuary**

Please join us to enjoy and support the children of the church! They've been working hard rehearsing for this event since September, and would love to see a large audience.

Special thanks to David Barnaba for his dedication to this event for all the youngsters of the church!

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# **YOUTH GROUP**

**Sunday, December 7 at 3:00**

Our Youth will be going Christmas Caroling this week, and plan to serenade our Homebound members, who will no doubt enjoy the thoughtfulness and celebration of the season.

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# **BONAPPETEENS**

**Sunday, December 14 at 9:00am in the Dining Hall**

Come support our Teens, and enjoy the fellowship and breakfast they've enthusiastically prepared.

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# **CANTATA**

**Sunday, December 14 at the 10:30 service**

Everyone looks forward to this musical event! The choir, the orchestra, the music!

The title of this year's event is:

The Christmas Offering

# **LUNCH BUNCH**

**Tuesday, December 16 at 12:00pm in the Dining Hall**

You will NOT want to miss one of the most fun Lunch Bunch events of the year!

If you've never attended, please give Jimmy Walker or Margaret Hatton a call asap—you will spend the afternoon enjoying a great meal while laughing, playing games and laughing even more at the Yankee Swap. Don't forget to bring 3 dozen cookies to share with our Homebound members, and eat a few yourself!

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## **BACKPACK BLESSINGS**

**Every Week During the School Year**

Thanks to the dedication of Maria Menconi and her volunteers, on October 1, we began our 12th year of Backpack Blessings. We want to thank the Mallard Creek family for the contributions made during the 2024-2025 school year; the program absolutely cannot continue without your support! This past year we averaged about 60 backpacks a week, with each containing food for 4 children. Our expenses have been about \$700.00 a week.

This school year is going to be especially challenging, as Parkside Elementary has merged with another school and will have around 720 students, up from about 330 last year. As a result, the food needs will be even greater; and we'll prepare 116 bags each week. Parkside has also changed its name to Dorothy J Vaughn Academy of Technology at Parkside. We will continue to provide backpacks for University Meadows.

This program has been supported by the generous donations of church members. Due to the Current situation with SNAP, and the growing number of bags as well as the rising food prices, your continued donations are even more important, and appreciated. While there are many worthwhile projects to support - both in and out of the Mallard Creek family-serving the children in our immediate area is one of the best ways to spread Christ's love around us.

### **How can you donate?**

- § Bring food items and place them in the bin in the gathering space.
- § Write a check payable to Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, and in the memo section put Backpack Blessings
- § Donate Online, noting the funds are designated for Backpack Blessings

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## **Christmas Eve Services**

**Family Service at 5:00 pm**

**Communion Service at 7:00 pm**

Both services will include singing our most beloved carols, (and the Instant Christmas Pageant at 5:00!) and end with the lighting of candles and singing Silent Night.

Please bring your families and friends to celebrate the joy and wonder of Christ's birth.

# Special Prayers

December 2025

Avonda Albright  
Clyde and Linda Benfield  
**Jessica Booth**  
**Ralph Brand**  
Ann & Jimmy Brown  
Bobby Brown  
**Nancy Busch**  
**Bill Cochran**  
**Sheila DeArmon**  
Guy Eberhart  
**Rima Frika**  
**Eliza Furr (friend of Linda Preslar)**  
Brenda Garrison  
**Carl and Ben Hatton**

Jean Helms  
**Barry Hinson**  
**Daisy Huber (5 year old friend of Suzanne Curtis)**  
Janet Hunter  
Shirley Hunter  
Phyllis Jones  
**Debra Johnson**  
Betsy Killian  
**Lana Lamkin (friend of Doris DeArmon)**  
**Sheila Letica**  
Elaine Lord  
**Cecil Massey**  
**Dennis McCrary & Family**  
**Beth McLamb (Joe Crapster's Cousin)**

**Bobbie Misenheimer**  
Donnie Oehler  
Tommy Oehler  
Jenny Parker  
**Ginger Penninger**  
**Eddy Pitsenbarger (friend of the Whitmires)**  
**Bryan Pouliot (friend of the Alexanders')**  
**Susan Roddey**  
Donna Seaford  
**Lois Spradley's daughter in law Diana**  
**Pete Taylor (Terri Garrison's Brother-In-Law)**  
Earl Thomas  
Lois Treadway  
Dave York (Nancy Busch's Brother-In-Law)

## ***CORRECTIONS TO THE DECEMBER BIRTHDAY CALENDAR:***

December 1: Marlene Allen

December 2: Jane Geracimos



2026

# January



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Linda Benfield	2 Roy Skinner	3 Linda Wallace Jimmy Wood	4
5	6	7 Marty Brown	8	9 Jarrett Garrison	10	11 Jennifer Lazarus Bailey Mitchell
12 Dennis McCrary	13	14 Tommy Mitchell	15 Laura Cochran	16	17	18 Dr. Scott Moss
19	20 Craven Oehler	21 Sonja Benton Jennifer Messina	22 Rob Johnson	23	24 Sheila DeArmon	25 Maria Menconi Reagan Weinbach
26	27	28 Lisa Oehler Eric Johnson	29 Maria Martini	30 Jake White	31	

# The Light of the World



Advent

## DECEMBER OFFICERS ON DUTY

### ELDERS

Brian Wasko, Keri Wasko, Jack Miles

### DEACONS

Phil Ashley, Eric Johnson, Debra Johnson, Rob Moore

## HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be closed on:

December 25 and 26

January 1 and 2

Advent is a time of reflection,  
marking the journey toward  
the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church  
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Charlotte, NC 28262



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

Senior Pastor  
Transitional Associate Pastor  
Financial Manager  
Director of Music  
Preschool Director