Well, after fifteen months, I will be able to see my parents in person. Granted, it will only be for two hours and in their room, but it will still be a face-to-face encounter.

I am not alone in getting to re-awaken face-to-face meetings. Some folks talk about getting to go to one of our local breweries for a quaff with a couple of vaccinated friends and sound like prisoners freed. Others talk about getting to see grandchildren for the first time in months and months, sounding like giddy new parents welcoming a first child. There is hope. There is liberation. There is real joy.

We need to see each other. We need to be with others. We need interaction.

We were made that way.

An 11th Century theologian, Richard of St. Victor, sees this truth as a direct outpouring of the being of God in our human existence. We are made in the image of God. God is the Trinity—a lover, beloved, and a third being loved by both the others and loving both the others—all in a single being. Confusing until you see what Richard does with it—he sees that as a perfect definition of communion—a blending of souls in friendship, community, and care. As God is, so God wants us to be.

So, we not only feel good when we get to be together, we experience the very purpose for which God made us—to be creatures formed, shaped, and led by mutuality, compassion, grace, and mercy who reach their fullest potential in direct contact with one another.

More simply, we need togetherness.

Enjoy it as more and more of us are vaccinated and the world reopens before us.
Pastor Alison’s Care Corner

Three weeks from now, our son will marry his love, Kaylee Walker. In three weeks from now, I will have a daughter-in-law, which of course means that I will have the title that bears the brunt of so many jokes, the role (drum roll, please) of mother-in-law.

Where did the time go?
And how is it possible that our precious little tow-headed boy grew up to be a married man?
Any healthy parent wants this for her child, but when the day arrives, it’s rather sobering.

Yes, in three short weeks, Perry and Kaylee will wed. Due to COVID-19, the ceremony and gathering will be small, teeny tiny even, which honestly is fine with my being the somewhat shy person that I am. Only immediate family will be there. It will no doubt be oh-so-sweet. I’ve been collecting mismatched candlesticks and mismatched antique dessert plates for over a year, and at last I can pull out this eclectic collection and put them to use at the rehearsal dinner. With as many as I have, I might even be able to open up a shop on Etsy!

We have rented a house in the mountains for the occasion where my father and his wife, my best friend in the whole world, our daughter and her fiancé, and Rob and I will spend nearly a week, a few days before the event and a few days afterwards. I’ve had my dress for over a year and Rob has a brand new navy suit, complete with a blush-colored bow tie compliments of our son.

What fills Rob and me with such gratitude is not the food or the decor or even how smashing (!!!) we will look. What fills us with such deep gratitude is the love we have for Kaylee. We could not, in a bazillion years, have asked for a kinder, more down to earth, more loving future daughter-in-law. Thank you, Kaylee Walker, for loving our son. Thank you for accepting the Watkins, warts and all. Thank you for your honesty. Thank you for your depth. And thank you even for your wicked sense of humor. Thanks be to God.

Elizabeth King
Deane Davis
Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas
Libby Carroll, sister of Linda Killian
Matthew Sheehan, grandson of Carolyn
Gail Tucker, sister in law of Kim
Alice Holt, sister of Jane Eisenhower

Warner Marshall
Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian

Ann Brown
Justin Alford
David McElveen
Joan Reid
David, brother of Nancy Busch
Linda, sister in law of Nancy Busch
Chuck Rodden, cousin of Mike
Dale McLaughlin

Tom Busch
Kenneth Helms
Barbara Krady
Debbie Faraone

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 Treadaway - SGT Malcolm Allen - LTjG Morgan Whitmore, Lt. Alex Busch and PV2 Stephen Lisi

The Connections Committee is reaching out to the congregation to gather the most up-to-date contact information for the directory. Please see someone from the committee at the Welcome table on Sunday to confirm or update your information.

Or, you may email your cell phone and email address to Jennifer Lazarus at jlazarusoo@gmail.com.
As the month of May begins, we thank God for the blessings that He has given us and for His guidance each day throughout this school year!

This year has been one like we have never seen before. We have faced constant challenges, new ways of doing things, been forced into stepping out of our comfort zones on many occasions and worked and prayed harder than ever before. Despite everything, this has been one of our BEST years because of our AWE-SOME teachers, wonderful parents, and supportive church family! As of today, we can celebrate the fact that we have grown from 21 students on September 8th, our first day of school, to 101 students!

THANK YOU!

May is a busy month for us with: Teacher Appreciation Week, Parent Appreciation, curriculum review in the classrooms, Pre-K Lemonade Stand, outdoor picnics, nature walks, outdoor fun, End-of-Year Celebrations, Pre-K Graduation Ceremony and much more. On May 27th, the teachers will say their “good-byes” to their students with many hugs and tears, as they send them off to summer and new teachers next year.

Ms. Monie will wrap up her Bible stories this year with Jonah and the Whale and the Ten Commandments. We have been so blessed this year that Ms. Monie has been able to continue to share her special gifts with our children by recording the Bible Stories each week for us. “THANK YOU” to Monie Alexander and her family of wonderful and talented actors and actresses who made the Bible stories come alive for our children this year!

The Bible Verse for May is: “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.” Genesis 28:15

It is not too late to register for the 2021-2022 school year and our June Summer Camps! Your child must be 2-years-old by August 31st through 5-years-old to participate and both programs run Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Summer Camps will be:

- **Week 1:** June 7-10 “Under the Sea”
- **Week 2:** June 14-17 “Let’s Go on An Adventure”
- **Week 3:** June 21-24 “Let’s Go Camping”

(*Each week is $125 and is due at time of registration.)

All openings are on a first come first served basis so do not delay, call us today at 704-549-9741 or email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org for more information. Registration packets for the 2021-2022 school year and June Summer Camps can be found on our website or in the Church Gathering Space.

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

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**Upcoming Circle Meetings**

Welcome to Presbyterian Women’s Circle 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. Didn’t read? Don’t have a book? Don’t worry, come anyway! Aside from the lessons, there is typically a discussion about mission projects or special events. Please reach out to the women listed below if you have any questions.

- **Circle of Anna** – May 6, 2021 – 10:15 am in the Gathering Space  
  (Polly Caldwell – ccapwc@bellsouth.net, Linda Apolinar-edlin1025@yahoo.com)
- **Circle of Mary** – May 4th 10:30am at the Community House (please bring your own chair) (Jane Isehower – isehowerj@bellsouth.net - Linda Wallace – beach68@bellsouth.net, Sally Tyler - tylerstmt@bellsouth.net)
- **Circle of Rebekah** – May 3rd 6:00 in the Gathering Space (Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)
- **Circle of Ruth** – May 3rd 7:00 on ZOOM (Sue Oehler – cscoehler@bellsouth.net)
Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

May 2021

SCHOOL'S ALMOST OUT!

Youth Club
End of Year Party!

Sunday, May 2nd
4-6pm at the church

Come to the church for an afternoon of fun!
Wear a bathing suit underneath some old clothes and prepare to get WET!
Weather permitting, we will play some slip-n-slide wiffle ball and have an ice cream sundae bar.

TEEN FELLOWSHIP END OF YEAR
POOL PARTY

Sunday, May 16th
4-6pm
@ the Rodden's house
MEET THERE
7527 Neal Rd in Charlotte
Drive around until you see the pool ;)
RSVP to Andrea so we can plan for food!

All teens attending Montreat conferences:
Make sure your balance is paid this month!

Looking ahead...

Graduation Sunday
June 6, 2021
Outdoors at the Community House

Summer
Family Night Out
Wednesday Nights in June
A big Thank you to all our church members who continue to provide strong support for our local schools. The needs are ongoing, even as the school year begins to wind down. For the month of May we are asking for fast food restaurant gift cards (we don't collect grocery gift cards because items other than food can be bought). These gift cards will help provide extra food for these children during the summer months since they will not receive backpacks while school is out. Below is a list of restaurants:

- McDonalds
- Burger King
- Taco Bell
- Kentucky Fried Chicken
- Chick-fil-A
- Wendy's
- Bojangles

Our ability to continue this program is only possible because of your generous and ongoing donations. If you'd like to support this program with a monetary donation, make checks payable to Presbyterian Women, noting "Backpack Blessings" on the memo line. These gift cards can be brought to the church office or placed in the designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.

Once again, your support is greatly appreciated.

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**Elder duty for May:** Kenneth McCraw, Mike Rodden, Rodney Smith, Bill Wood, and Becky Wood

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

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**MARCH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>$27,016.00</td>
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<td>Worship Offering</td>
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<td>$27,016.00</td>
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<td>Online Giving</td>
<td>$14,170.00</td>
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<td>TOTAL Offering</td>
<td>$41,186.00</td>
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<td>Total Offering YTD</td>
<td>$140,722.00</td>
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<td>Total Expenses YTD</td>
<td>$165,494.94</td>
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<td>Under for Year</td>
<td>($21,772.94)</td>
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Congratulations to our confirmands.

Confirmation Class of 2020 & 2021
Seth Alford, son of Justin and Tammy Alford
Ashton Blevins, son of Chris and Dawn Blevins
Caitlin Blevins, daughter of Chris and Dawn Blevins
Emily Johnson, daughter of Mark and Leigh Johnson
Sophia Johnson, daughter of Rob and Joy Johnson
Lily Larkin, daughter of Craig and DeeDee Larkin
Brodie MacNeil, son of Wade and Jean MacNeil
Awah Ndungwa, son of Daniel and Lorraine Ndungwa
Will Oehler, son of Todd and Amy Oehler
Jackson Oehler, son of Jason and Holly Oehler
CJ Scott, son of Trisha Scott and the late Chevon Scott
Owen Stiffel, son of Andrew and Kimberly Stiffel

May 2021

Attention High School and College graduates we want to celebrate YOU! Please send your full name, date, where you graduated from, and what are your plans are (college or job) to Nancy.busche88@gmail.com.

June Birthdays

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Busch</td>
<td>Chris Blevins</td>
<td>Ashlyn Brown</td>
<td>Greg Armistead</td>
<td>James Achurch</td>
<td>Anne Foust</td>
<td>Connie Wallace</td>
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<td>Connor Semon</td>
<td>Amber Alexander</td>
<td>Josie Reynolds</td>
<td>Jackie Triece</td>
<td>Wayne Wilson</td>
<td>Stephanie Helms</td>
<td>Beth Patzio</td>
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<td>Kirk Schultz</td>
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<td>Chris Blevins</td>
<td>Ginger Penninger</td>
<td>Michael Maddux</td>
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<td>Jenny Cochran</td>
<td>Brooke Oehler</td>
<td>Shelley Wasko</td>
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<td>Amber Alexander</td>
<td>Chris Mingus</td>
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<td>Lexi Burroughs</td>
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<td>Janie Dowling</td>
<td>Steve Lisi</td>
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<td>Emily Johnson</td>
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<td>Mack Downing</td>
<td>Linda Killian</td>
<td>Andrew Stiffel</td>
<td>Julie Thompson</td>
<td>Jean Muller</td>
<td>Jason Oehler</td>
<td>Jackie Brand</td>
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<td>Rob Watkins</td>
<td>Nancy Busch</td>
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<td>Donna Sheppard</td>
<td>Cathy Piarlor</td>
<td>Isabella English</td>
<td>Scott Powell</td>
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<td>Hannah Rainstein</td>
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<td>DeeDee Larkin</td>
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<td>Ruthie Schultz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jaylen Oehler</td>
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<td>Barbara Kunick</td>
<td>Robby Benton, Jr.</td>
<td>Rob Moore</td>
<td>Tina Haas</td>
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<td>Catherine Reynolds</td>
<td>Ashley Andreasen</td>
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<td>Travis Guledge</td>
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<td>Eve Guiney</td>
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<td>Nicole Stillman</td>
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<td>Meredith Spittle</td>
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For Memorial Day, SCOUT TROOPS 148 & 248 will place flags on the graves of our deceased veterans. This tradition was established by our first scout leader, Alex Garrison. On Memorial Day Sunday, the Flag will be lowered to half-staff in memory of all veterans.

**VETERANS INTERRED AT MALLARD CREEK CEMETERIES**

Adams, John Hope
Albee, Cliff WW I
Alexander, George M. WW I
Alexander, John H.
Alexander, Phillip Herman
Alexander, Radford B.
Alexander, Robert Flow
Alexander, Roy Franklin
Alexander, William T. III
Almond, George
Austin Lawrence Merwin
Becker, Erwin B.
Benton, Justus (J.L.)
Berry, Kenneth
Bingham, Walter Brice WW I
Black, Ray
Blackman, Robert
Boahn, Walter
Brown, Sam J.
Clark, Jack
Cochran, Lawrence
Cochran, Ollie Brice
Cochran, Walter B.
Covington, Norman
Crenshaw, Alice
Daffin, Charles
DeArmon, Hal
Deaton, Crawford
Deaton, Harry Edward
Deaton, Thomas L. (Tommy)
Downing, Stanley
Duesram, Charles
Fesperman, Charles
Foster, John M.
Foster, William K.
Galloway, Victor Query
Garrison, Alex
Garrison, James Watts
Garrison, Tommy
Garrison, William H.

Grubb, Jake
Haas, Donald
Hawkins, O.O. WW I
Henderson, J.L. WW I
Holland, Hoyle
Hunter, Batte
Hunter, Billy Frank
Johnston, Alfred WW I
Johnston, Oscar
Johnston, Raeford
Jolly, Russell
Jones, Fred C.
Jones, Wilson
Jordan, Jerry Neal
Keller, Roy
Kilian, John W.
Kirk, James W. (Bill)
Kirk, John E. (Gene)
Kirk, James F.
Kirk, Robert N.
Larrabee, James Carlton
Linker, Howard
Martin, Ted Douglas

McGee, Wilton L. (Louie)
McLaughlin, Eugene
McLaughlin, Ralph
McLaughlin, S.E. (Gene)
Morris, Claudia Nelson
Morrow, Calvin
Mullis, Henry C.
Mullis, W.A.
Munn, Joe
Neal, Woodrow
Nelson, Audrey Bailey
Nivens, Jerry Wayne
Oehler, J.W. (June)
Oehler, Jimmy
Oehler, Martin (Buster)
Oehler, Charles Henry
Oehler, Robert M.
Oehler, William K.
Penninger, Charles
Penninger, Charles, Jr.
Popen, Dempsey
Popen, Robert B.
Ranson, W. Thorn WW I
Robinson, Lewis
Sheehan, Charles Russell
Sloop, James Francis WWI
Spradley, Sr., Carl
Thomas, Reese
Thomas, Craven
Thompson, Don
Thompson, Orville
Untz, Merle
Untz, William M.
Walker, James A.
Wallace, Young A.
Wilson, Howard
Wilson, Joe M.
Young, Jack E.

**MCPC VETERANS INTERRED ELSEWHERE**

Abernathy, Kenneth
Albright, Spurgeon Larry
Alexander, Clyde (killed in Europe)
Alexander, Fred Turner WWI
Crenshaw, Cal
Davis, Edward
Faulkner, Charles
Garrison, Mal
Hartwell, June Elizabeth
Hill, C.W.
Hill, Ira
Joseph, Bill
Kirk, Calvin
Lyerly, Myron B.
McLaughlin, Jay
McLaughlin, Kirk
Morgan, Tom
Owens, William H.
Smith, Pete
Smith, Reese
Snodgrass, Alvin
Snow Sr., Chet
St. Clair, Thurston
Stone, Gene
Treadway, Fredrick
Tulbert, Billy J.
Untz, Layton
Williams, Ronnie
Wilson, Summers
Workman, Robert

**CIVIL WAR VETERANS**

Alexander, Livingston
Benfield, Daniel
Christensen, Reuben F.
Dixon, Hugh
Garrison, A.A.
Garrison David B.
Garrison, Robert W.
Hutchison, James R.
Hutchison, Robert A.
Kirk, James C.
Kirk, John
Newell, A. H.
Newell, J. H.
Newell, W.W.
Query, Newton
Query, William W.
Stinson, W. M.
Wallace, W.A.W.