

“They Say” Go To Church

“Wow, What a Year! But Oh What a Night!” was the title of the Christmas musical presentation from our choir last month. The title defined our year and reminds us that even in the midst of chaos, the night Christ was born was quite the night. The title also defined our choir presentation. I am so very proud of Cindie for all the work she put in to planning, rehearsing and making this Christmas celebration possible. Cindie has been a music minister long enough that she could do a Christmas presentation with her eyes closed in a normal year. But this has been anything but a normal year! For Cindie to do what she led our choir and musicians to do last month, took a lot of outside the box thinking. Thank you for your leadership and ministry Cindie! I want to say a special “Thank you!” to all of those who helped make this opportunity possible from the behind-the-scenes folks, to the musicians and singers. Each one of you were part of a larger picture that brought the gospel message of Christ’s birth to life in a new way for those who attended in person, as well as those who viewed it or will view it online. We were blessed to have several special nights last month! We kicked off the Christmas season with a drive-in movie that a lot of people enjoyed. We had our two choir presentations followed by an evening of drive-in Christmas caroling and capped the month off with our Christmas Eve service. Wow, what a year! But oh, what wonderful times of celebrating we’ve had this Christmas!

Have you ever wondered who “they” are when someone says, “They say...” I certainly do. There are a variety of survey organizations such as the Barna Group and Gallup. Some are more reputable than others when it comes to the information they provide. I recently read some results from a Gallup survey that I found interesting after the year we’ve experienced. Understanding mental health trends especially throughout this past year is something that interests me as a pastor because it helps me better understand people. Since 2001 Gallup has done a survey to assess where people are in regard to their mental health from year to year. They conducted a phone survey of one thousand people between November 5-19 and found that the percentage of people who rated their mental health as “excellent” or “good” decreased by nine points compared to last year, dropping to the lowest point the survey has seen in the last two decades. Yet, there is one group of people who have actually managed to increase their “excellent” and “good” ratings when it comes to their mental health in a year that has brought stress, anxiety and worry to so many. According to the survey, weekly churchgoers are still doing very well.

In the survey, those who attend church weekly were the only group to actually increase their numbers of “excellent” ratings. It’s not clear whether those attending church weekly attended in person or online. The survey did produce a couple of takeaways I find interesting and they are: Church services act as a benefit to a person’s mental health and church communities are essential for helping people through difficult times. I have received numerous phone calls, texts, emails, notes and cards from people since April that affirm these survey results. We continue to see consistent attendance in our Limestone Park worship with people from all over the Roanoke Valley. Many are members of other churches, but are coming to the park for worship. Their reasons are varied, but a couple of things are consistent: they are either not ready or are unable to go back inside a building and they want the “community” that attending worship together provides. They enjoy being able to look around and see other people worshipping with them. The same is true for our worship inside. We were created as relational beings and we need to be with others. Whether you attend worship at the park, inside Mill Creek or continue to join us online, the message is clear, **“they say” go to church!** I hope that weekly attendance is a priority for you and your family because after all, “they say” it has its mental health benefits. I can guarantee there are many other benefits including spiritual growth, a sense of community and belonging to something that makes eternal differences in your life, as well as the lives of others.

Grace and peace to each of you as we begin this New Year!

Danny

Our Stewardship

10:45 Service Nursery Workers

January 3 Myra Dancausse, Ashley Montgomery
 January 10 Lara Lee Strickler, Melissa Peery
 January 17 Sue Lee, Don Epperly
 January 24 Kayla Anhold, Anne Simmons
 January 31 Heather & Bella Gilliland

Greeters

January 3 Eula Kanode, Donna Mack, Mary Deel
 January 10 Eula Kanode, Vana McClanahan,
 John Dennis Caldwell
 January 17 Eula Kanode, John Dennis Caldwell, Jean Minter
 January 24 Eula Kanode, Mary Bowser, Kim Lawrence
 January 31 Eula Kanode, Luke Winand, Mary Deel

Our Kingdom Giving

	9:00am Limestone	10:45am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
December 6	184	65	\$7,582.00	\$1,980.00
December 13	183	45	\$9,918.00	\$1,505.00
December 20	184	45	\$7,027.00	\$1,300.00
December 27	**	65	\$9,399.00	\$2,625.00

**Limestone was canceled due to weather.

Lottie Moon Offering Total as of 12/27/20: \$3,476.25

Remember that we need a **combined \$10,332/week** in regular offering and building gifts to meet our budget needs.

Inclement Weather Policy

For Sunday services, decisions about canceling church are made by 7am. Cancellation notices will be emailed to the church email list, posted on Facebook and posted on WDBJ7. During the weekdays, when Botetourt County Schools close early or are closed for the day, all church activities for that day are canceled. Delayed school openings do not affect church schedules.

Overflow Seating Now Available!

Overflow seating is now available to watch the 10:45am worship service via closed circuit television on a large screen TV in the fellowship hall.

Welcome New Members



Ted & Debbie McAllister join by transfer of letter. Their address is 535 Cottonwood Lane, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Our church family rejoices in their decision.

Happy January Birthday!

- 1 Richard Gregory
- Rachel Epperly
- Curtis Parr
- 2 John Shaw
- 4 Leigh Hamilton
- 6 Helen Hodges
- 7 Pam Morris
- Marty Martin
- 8 Ellison Simmons
- 9 Mary Adkins Carr
- Wayne Wertz
- 10 Haley Meadows Austin
- Melissa Barnard
- Judah Witt
- 11 JoAnne Humphries
- 13 Steve Hubbard
- Les Mabe
- Alex Strickler
- Abigail Elkins
- 14 Cathy Downs
- 15 Tyson Abbott
- 16 Zach States
- Luke Winand
- Cherie Neighbors
- 17 Danny Quirin
- Mary Bowser
- Chris Rago
- 19 Dan Bowser
- Katie Imron
- Julia Spencer
- 20 Colin Cook
- Noah States
- 21 Gino Arbogast
- Emerson Kidd
- 22 Scott Boone
- 23 Jacob Simmons
- 24 Cindy Gibson
- 26 Gretchen Baker
- 28 Jamey Brugh
- Ruth Fix
- 29 Justin Barnard
- 31 Jessica Mack



January Anniversary!

- 14 Fred & Pat King
- 25 Matt & Kate Peyton

MUSIC NOTES.....



Happy 2021! Wow, what a year 2020 was! It was hard in so many ways, but God blessed Mill Creek in some mighty ways! In August when we started thinking about Christmas and how in the world could we present the Christmas music with all the restrictions in place, we started by praying for guidance. I reached out to some of my past mentors and Stan Kingma texted and said, "Can we talk? I've got some ideas!" After that, we started making plans, some plans didn't pan out like we thought and others began to take shape. Many, many prayers, plans and people went into making the Christmas program the success that you saw on December 13th either inside MCBC, on online or on You Tube.

God has always blessed us with faithful choir members who practice hard to present the music! This year He brought us new friends who sang with us and provided much needed support behind the scenes. God also provided extra musicians who added so much joy to our already wonderful praise team. Shirley Holdren wrote the narration for the first part of our program which provided some much needed laughter. Shirley also stepped up at the last minute to narrate the script which Stan Kingma had written and was not able to be present due to health concerns. Thank you to EVERYONE who had a part, big or small, in this year's program. Each person was very important and I thank God for each of you! Thanks to the Hospitality Committee who also thought "outside the box" and provided beautiful bags of cookies and candy to each person who came to the Christmas program inside MCBC and also provided supper for the participants in the musical!

Last year I wrote this: "I am so excited to see where the Lord leads Mill Creek in this next year!" in the January newsletter. God did lead us in incredible ways in 2020! I believe He will do the same in 2021!

Philip and I wish everyone at Mill Creek a happy, healthy New Year.

Psalm 47:1-2 "Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a jubilant cry. For the Lord, the Most High, is awe-inspiring, a great King over the whole earth".

For His Glory,
Cindie



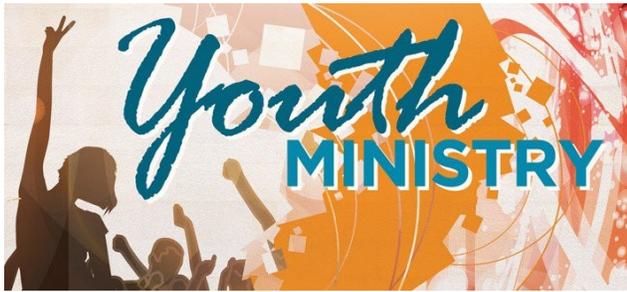
Bob and I want to thank all those who sent cards and made phone calls to encourage us during Bob's recovery from surgery and to offer sympathy for my mother's death. You guys are the best. We look forward to being able to being with you again.

Beth Hetherington

Memorial Service Sunday, January 3



Our annual Memorial Service will be Sunday, January 3 during the 10:45 worship service. During the service, we will have a time of remembrance for members of our church who died during 2020. Those being remembered will be: Tommy Hodges, Gerald Marshall, Isobel Dickerson, Barry Owen, Fred Bare, Beth Deel, Larry Crawford, Cary Obenshain.



Good-bye 2020!!!

The year 2020 was one for the history books, literally. So many historic and life changing events happened. How will we remember this year? As one of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety? Or will we remember it as a year where we saw God provide?

At times it can be easy to get bogged down in our circumstances, especially during a year like 2020. But the Bible shows us a way to shift our focus. In Psalm 77, the psalmist starts by dwelling on his circumstances. The first 10 verses paint the picture of a man in distress, who is anxious and feels alone. But in verse 11, his tone shifts. He says "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds."

Instead of dwelling on his situation the psalmist focuses on what God has done. "You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples." (v 14). When you look back on 2020, where do you see that God was at work? This year God has worked wonders in helping us overcome the challenges of the pandemic. For example, this summer we were able to meet at Limestone with other youth groups all the way until the end September. We were able to help with missions projects locally by serving both Solomon's Mission and the Least of These Ministries. And finally, we were able to have fun despite all that was going on in the world. God allowed us to fellowship at events like hiking, tubing, and a Fall Youth Retreat.

In 2021 we can, like the psalmist, choose to focus on God and his works instead of our surroundings. This January we will hopefully be attending the Edge Conference where we will turn our focus on worshiping Jesus. The Edge Conference is an annual youth retreat that is held in Gatlinburg, TN. It is traditionally a great time of fun, community building, and a time of worship. As the year starts, I would also like to challenge you to turn your focus on Jesus by spending time in God's word and prayer. My specific challenge would be to challenge you to read 12 books of the Bible this year. Often, it seems that we set ambitious goals to read through the Bible as a new year's resolution. This year, let me challenge you to spend a month in a single book. In doing so, you will be able to really get into the book and retain much more information. My hope is that as you read God's Word this year, you will grow in both your love and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Joel Elmore



Due to Mill Creek's supporters (36 households) who shopped at Kroger between 9-1-20 and 11-30-20, we will receive a donation of \$251.43 from the Kroger Community Rewards program. This donation will go to our bus ministry.

If you have not registered your Kroger Plus card, simply log on to www.kroger.com/communityrewards. Click on "sign in/register" then click on "sign up today" as a new customer and follow the directions to select Mill Creek Baptist Church. Then when you swipe your card, we will get credit.

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be emailed to prayer@millcreekbc.com. Please remember that prayer emails are only checked during regular church office hours (M-F; 9:00-1:00). If you have an emergency prayer request, please contact Pastor Danny or Cindie Hayden.



From the Deacons' Desk

Happy New Year!!

WOW! What a year! I'm glad 2020 is behind us and look forward to what awaits us for 2021. With the new year comes new opportunities. A time to focus on our Lord and Saviour. A time to strive to be more like Him.



I want to look at the word servant. By definition, it means, "a person who performs duties for others". But in the Biblical sense, a servant has as much to do with your heart and intentions as it does about the physical actions you may take to help someone. Listening, awareness, commitment and empathy are four key words that, if kept in the forefront of your heart and mind, can lead you to opportunities to make a difference. That difference can be as simple as holding the door open for someone, checking in on your neighbor and offering to pick up groceries for them. It can look like calling a mom friend who needs a little encouragement and support or shoveling that sidewalk for the couple who may not be able to get out as well as they used to or taking the trash to the road for that sweet lady that lost her husband recently. Little things to you can mean big things to someone else. I challenge you to be creative, think about some things you can do to serve others with a true servant's heart.

If you knew today would be your last day on earth, how would you spend your time? Jesus, washed the feet of His disciples.

In Him,

Tony Holdren
Deacon Chair



From the Prayer of Solomon:

"Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth — you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue whole heartily in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today". "And now, Lord, the God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David come true. But will God really dwell on earth with humans? The heavens even the highest heavens cannot contain you." (Excerpts from II Chronicles 6:14, 15, 17, 18 NIV)

Lord we know today you do dwell with us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. God you are with us. You are with us in trials and celebrations, such as COVID-19, cancer, broken families, and the birth of a child, baptism and weddings. In this New Year, we remember, your faithfulness and your promises, and say in our hearts we belong to you God. We are your people. We recommit to do what is right and just and walk in obedience to you. Lord, we are your people and you are our God.

In Jesus name we pray Amen.

The Deacons Prayer Team

Dominican Republic Preschool Auction 2021



It MAY be.....VIRTUAL

It MAY beONLINE

It MAY be.....IN PERSON



We aren't sure exactly **HOW** it will take place.....

BUT we know.....

that the annual **Dominican Republic Dessert Auction** to benefit the Preschool in the Brisas del Este community in Santo Domingo

WILL BE happening on February 14!



The largest fundraiser for Preescolar Christiano Brisas del Este will take place on February 14 and auction items are needed! Contact Mary Bowser at 540-798-3036 or Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107 if you would like to participate by donating yummy baked goods or other items.

At Preescolar Christiano Brisas del Este in Santo Domingo, the learning continues! Teachers are preparing lessons and activities and are delivering these to the children. The outreach of Pastor Ernan and the staff extends to the homes of the children and the love of Jesus is shared in many tangible ways. We are grateful for this ministry and for everyone's continuing support! If you are interested, you can follow this preschool ministry on Facebook to get a close look at the children and their learning.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS -- Soup for Seniors



The LOA will be **collecting food to be delivered to seniors in our own community** and we will be helping again this year. Their **goal is to collect 50,000 cans of soup to be delivered to 3,500 seniors** in the counties of **Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke**, as well as the cities of **Covington, Roanoke, Salem**, and the towns of **Rocky Mount, Vinton, and Clifton Forge**.

The priority recipients are **homebound Meals on Wheels clients**. For many of the 550 recipients, the hot lunch meal they receive is the only meal they have all day. The soup collected helps provide a hot meal on a cold day and also reminds them, in the bleakest part of winter, that the community has not forgotten them. Other recipients include **Congregate Meals participants** who look to LOA for a hot lunch meal along with socialization; seniors who **rely on LOA for transportation to the doctor or grocery store**; and seniors who receive LOA's intense case management services as well as homemaker and personal care services. The goal also includes **providing the filled soup bags to the over 1,500 residents of low-income, independent senior housing** as well as seniors who receive assistance from area **Departments of Social Services, Goodwill Industries and other agencies**.

The items most needed by our elderly neighbors include **low sodium and nutritious soups, crackers, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meats such as tuna, peanut butter, Carnation Instant Breakfast and oatmeal**. **No glass containers, please**.

Bring your Soup for Senior items any time during the month of January. Items can be placed in the display area near the ramp or brought to Limestone Park. Our donations will be taken to the LOA collection center early in the month of February.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thanks to everyone who donated items and money to help our Advent Bucket project continue this year. A special thanks to our Deacons for providing the names of the recipients and delivering the buckets of goodies on behalf of our children. This was a way our little people helped bless those during Advent as we all awaited the birth of Baby Jesus.

Our children have been busy making Christmas cards for the Advent Christmas Stockings. COVID didn't stop the kids from making cards to help cheer those on our nursing home list. Once all the cards were prepared, we placed them in a stocking for the folks to have a card for each day in December. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible and a special thanks to our Deacons for delivering.



January Sweet Treats for School Personnel

We will be collecting FUN SIZE candy bars which will be given to our Botetourt County school personnel. Our sweet treats will remind them of our interest and our prayers. We will be preparing for about 700 workers, so lots of candy is needed! FUN SIZE candy bars are preferred. Donations need to be brought to Limestone Park or to the church by January 10th.



Child Care News

Hello All! The month of December flew by! Our children were busy creating wonderful crafts for Christmas and learning new letters, numbers, and so many other things all month. Cindie and Pastor Danny shared the Story of Jesus' birth with each of our preschool classrooms each Monday in December. The children really enjoyed this story time. We held individual Christmas Parties and gift exchanges within each group on December 18th. The children were very excited!

The center will be closed the week of December 28th-January 1st. We wish you ALL a Happy New Year and pray for good health for each of you!

See you next month! Cherry and Debbie

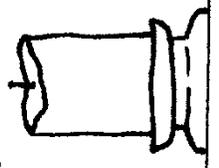
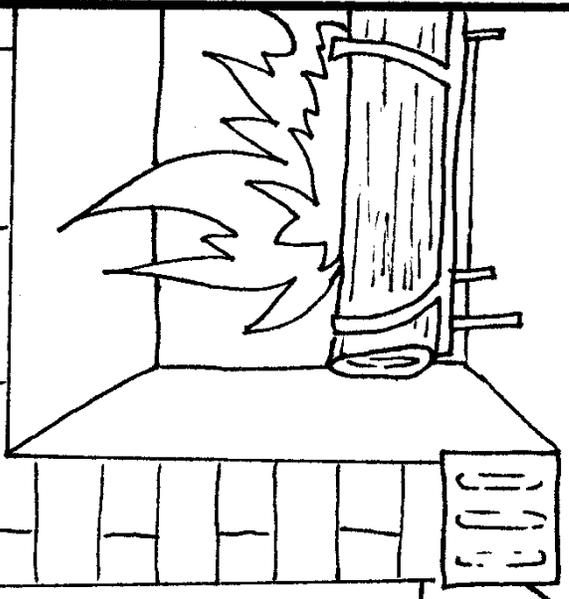
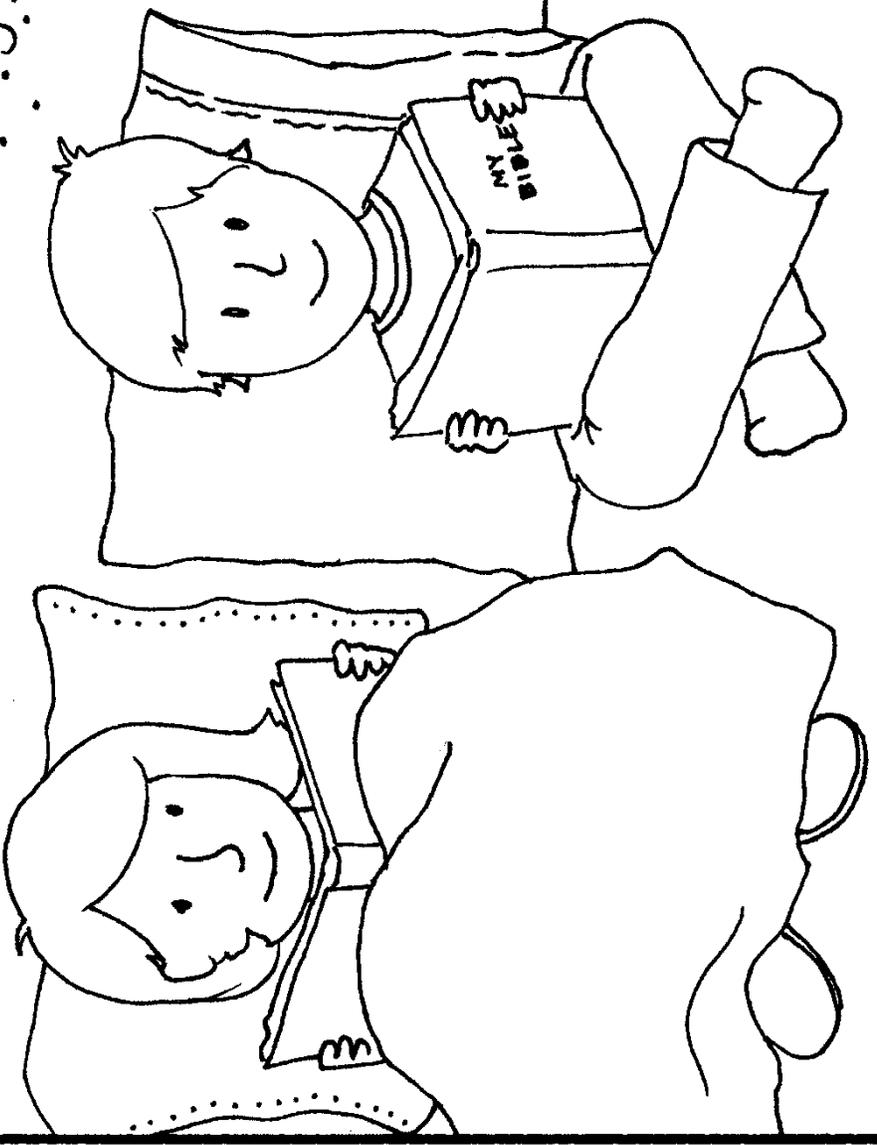
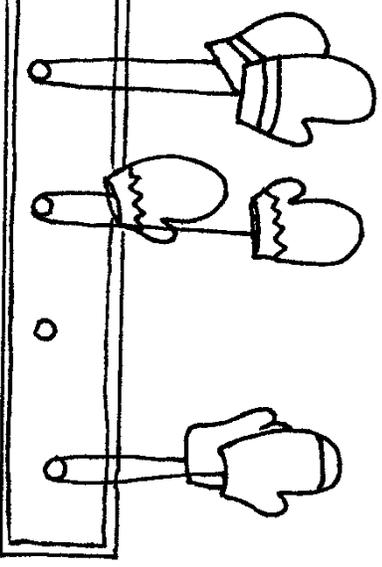
Santa's Elves

Santa's elves have been busy at Mill Creek! They wanted our Child Care children to have gifts for their parents this year. So the elves made deliveries of "gift kits" to each door. We pray that the Child Care staff, children and parents were blessed!



Chilly, freezy
winter days

a perfect chance
to give **God**
praise



Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com



January 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church office Closed	2
3 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship @ Limestone (weather permitting) 9:30 AM Youth Class in Youth Room, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 10:45 AM Worship, Memorial Service, Children's SS, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 12:00 PM Max Brugh Class in Max Brugh Room 8:00 PM New Adventures Class via Zoom	4	5 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast @ Famous Anthony's Williamson Rd. 10:00 AM Daytime Mission Group in Fellowship House 7:00 PM Helping Hands Class in Fellowship Hall	6 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth in Youth Room	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship @ Limestone (weather permitting) 9:30 AM Youth Class in Youth Room, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 10:45 AM Worship, Children's SS, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 12:00 PM Max Brugh Class in Max Brugh Room 6:15 PM Deacons Meeting 8:00 PM New Adventures Class via Zoom	11 6:00 PM BWNG in Fellowship House	12 7:00 PM Helping Hands Class in Fellowship Hall	13 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth in Youth Room	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16
17 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship @ Limestone (weather permitting) 9:30 AM Youth Class in Youth Room, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 10:45 AM Worship, Children's SS, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 12:00 PM Max Brugh Class in Max Brugh Room 8:00 PM New Adventures Class via Zoom	18	19 7:00 PM Helping Hands Class in Fellowship Hall	20 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth in Youth Room	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship @ Limestone (weather permitting) 9:30 AM Youth Class in Youth Room, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 10:45 AM Worship, Children's SS, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 12:00 PM Max Brugh Class in Max Brugh Room 8:00 PM New Adventures Class via Zoom	25	26 7:00 PM Helping Hands Class in Fellowship Hall	27 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth in Youth Room	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship @ Limestone (weather permitting) 9:30 AM Youth Class in Youth Room, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 10:45 AM Worship, Children's SS, Seed Sowers Class in Randy Daniels Room 12:00 PM Max Brugh Class in Max Brugh Room 8:00 PM New Adventures Class via Zoom						

Mill Creek Baptist Church
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Fincastle, Virginia 24090-4481
(540) 992-3474

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Return Service Requested

*Mill Creek Baptist Church
Ministers... the Congregation*
Pastor.....Danny Quirin
Minister of Music..... Cindie Hayden
Director of Youth Ministry.....Joel Elmore
Pianist.....Marcia Neighbors
Secretary.....Sandra Kidd

Philly Christmas Trip 2020

On Saturday, December 5 at 600 AM, Bubby Entsminger, Jerry Sweet and Tommy Moore from Mill Creek left the church parking lot bound for Pennsylvania with a trailer load of presents and clothes for children and women there. We had made contact with Omari Baye (who spoke at Mill Creek year before last), the director of the Women's Shelter at the Acts of the Apostles Church (which is several blocks north of Trinity Baptist Church) and arranged to transfer the "goodies" to a U-Haul he had borrowed outside of Lancaster. There are currently 85 women and over 100 children staying at the shelter along with several complete families. Each child received an age appropriate gift along with a wrapped "toilet paper holder" filled with candy and clothes (gloves, hats, etc) and blankets which had been sent with us. The ladies shopped (for free) from the clothes (children and women's) for items for themselves and their children. They are always so appreciative to receive gently used and new items that have been donated by many (a big thank you goes out to Josephine and Solomon's Mission for many donations). We were warmly greeted and thanked by Omari who conveyed his and their appreciation to all who sent presents! Omari and the pastor of the church (and maybe others) hope to come to our church again and speak about the work there in Philly with the women and children!

Thank you for your generosity in supplying presents (and clothes, etc) for children who probably would not have a present to open on Christmas morning if not for your care and concern. May God bless you and you and you and you.....!

Tom Moore