November 2026 Volume 51, Issue 11

The Dove

Newsletter of the Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11475 Lee Highway, Fincastle, VA 24090, (540) 992-3474, office@millcreekbc.com

And Be Thankful!

There is so much going on in the world around us! It seems like every November, I hear people say something to the effect of, "This is a pivotal election." I used to be cynical toward that comment thinking, "You said the same thing last year and here we are." But the older I get, and the crazier our world and, more specifically, our nation gets, and the further we move away from God's standards, the better I understand the truth of that statement. As I look around and consider things like the amendments we are voting on in Virginia this election, I am reminded of what Max Lucado wrote in his book, *You Are Never Alone: Trust in the Miracle of Presence and Power*. In it he writes about sightless people saying, "From Heaven's viewpoint, our earth is populated by sightless people. They do not see the meaning of life or the love of God. How else do we explain the confusion and chaos? How else do we explain the constant threat of world war, plagues of hunger, racism, and the Holocaust of the unborn? Billions of people simply cannot see…The devil who rules this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe."

This is a pivotal election when it comes to the amendments we are voting on concerning abortion and same sex marriages in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I know there is a lot of confusion in the world and there are people who have gone to great lengths to dress up immoral actions with flowery words but as they say, you can put lipstick on a pig and it's still a pig. Attempting to dress up and make "attractive" what God calls sin doesn't change the fact that it is still sin. Society would like you to buy into the fact that by using softer language and appealing to human desire and following your heart changes everything. But here's the truth, we can't make superficial or cosmetic changes to something that is immoral and ugly in God's sight and make it be right. No matter how much you dress it up, the core problem does not change. Regarding the first two amendments you can make them look and sound as attractive as you want but, in the end, they are still sinful in God's eyes. Satan truly has blinded the minds of those who do not believe and sadly, even many who do claim Christ as Savior.

It may be too late to change a vote or too late to change an action, but in this month where we set aside time to give thanks, I am reminded of what Paul wrote in **Colossians 3:12-15**, ***"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."*** I have committed more sin than I care to think about, yet God still loves me. He is still patient with me, kind toward me and still forgives me. Thank you, Jesus! Because of God's mercy and grace toward me, I am called to extend that to others. Because my eyes have been opened by the love of God and because I have experienced His forgiveness, I am called to be forgiving, letting the peace of Christ that accompanies His forgiveness rule my life. I love how Paul puts a P.S. on the end of verse 15, "*And be thankful.*"

No matter what the outcome of the election is, I will still allow God's peace to rule my heart and mind. I will still seek to forgive others because I know how much I have been forgiven. Elections come and go but thankfully, they aren't the end of my story or yours. God is still working in this sightless, sin-filled world seeking to forgive all who will call upon His name. So, seek forgiveness where you need to experience it and don't wait until the end of the month to be thankful for receiving it. Take time right now to do as the hymn writer suggests and count your many blessings, name them one by one. "*And be thankful*" all month long!

Debbie and I would like to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving!

Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30/11:00 Service Nursery

November 1	Debbie Rago & Erin Swortzel/Laurel Bowser & Hannah Rogers
November 8	Debbie Rago & Lindsay Thompson/Laura Epperly & Maribeth Martin
November 15	Debbie Rago & Richelle Christian/Kelly Denison & Jill Ferguson
November 22	Debbie Rago & Teresa Witt/Victoria Chocklett & Jenna Humphries
November 29	Debbie Rago & Victoria Chocklett/Katie Imron & Ashley Ulma

9:45 Sunday School Nursery

November 1	Ned & Rene Jeter
November 8	Don Epperly & Annette Shaw
November 15	Kayla Anhold & Rachel Witt
November 22	Kelly & Erik Olson
November 29	Kate Lawrence & Sandra Kidd

8:30/11:00 Service Toddlers

November 1	Melissa Peery/Danielle Tolley
November 8	Jennifer Ferguson/Mary Bowser
November 15	Kim Lawrence/Hunter Thompson
November 22	Marybeth Rush/Andy Shotwell
November 29	Sandra Kidd/Anna Clark

8:30/11:00 Service Preschool

November 1	Sharon Ernest/Kayla O' Bryant
November 8	Luke Winand/Rachel Witt
November 15	Cindy Holland/Melanie Thacker
November 22	Chelsea King/Nikki Cook
November 29	Jordan Kidd/Laura Epperly

8:30 Service Greeters

November 1	Mark Painter, Pat Shotwell, Teresa Simmons, Nancy Epperly, Brian Stevens
November 8	Judy Prease, Jimmy Brugh, John Plenge, Carol Theimer, Philip Christian
November 15	Regarna Pannell, Pat Wertz, Pam Gibson, Lesa Mabe, Shawn Crist
November 22	Debbie McAllister, Robbie Theimer, Melissa Peery, Pat Shotwell, Ronald Stevens
November 29	Mark Painter, Becky Meadows, Jeff Gibson, Richard Simpson, John & Rachel Edmonds

11:00 Service Greeters

November 1	Klayton Akers, Deacon Witt, Melissa Peery, Don Epperly, Hank Rogers
November 8	Kelly Denison, Wayne & Sandy Myers, Bruce Lightner, Jonathan Simmons
November 15	John Murphy, Brian Simpkins, Sidra White, Pam Morris, Adam Davis
November 22	Donna Mack, Don Johnson, Ferguson Family, Harry & Curtis Akers, Bud Mack
November 29	John Caldwell, Bruce & Patricia Lightner, Charlie & Erik Olson, CJ Boothe

8:30/11:00 Service Ushers

November 1	Mark Painter & Phillip Simmons/Melissa Peery & Klayton Akers
November 8	Judy Prease & Jeff Gibson/Wayne & Sandy Myers
November 15	Pat Wertz & Regarna Pannell/John Murphy & Brian Simpkins
November 22	Nancy Epperly & Pat Shotwell/Donna Mack & Don Johnson
November 29	John Caldwell & Regarna Pannell/Bruce & Patricia Lightner

Our Kingdom Giving

	SS	8:30am Worship	11:00am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
October 4	222	186	142	$27,465.00	$1,152.00
October 11	212	153	128	$13,953.00	$1,005.00
October 18	260	240	144	$15,352.00	$615.00
October 25	233	174	125	$10,436.00	$570.00

Remember that in order to meet our annual unified budget, we need $14,165 per week in offerings.

Happy November Birthday!

1 Carolyn Basham
Eric Anhold
2 Barbara Campbell
3 Bobby Simpson
Hannah Ferguson
4 Roman Clark
Sherry Simpkins
5 Marshal Phillips
Macon Humphries
Weston Bryan
Daniel Bratcher
Daniel Rader
6 Lee Ann Fix
Don Caldwell
7 Mike Lee
Tom Moore
8 Avery Focht
Kaleb Ferguson
9 Muriel Short
Jase Christian
11 Caleb Slaughter
12 Robin Sink
John Powell
Hadley Craft
13 Nathan Russell
14 Jean Minter
Katie Grace Barrett
Candace Monaghan
15 Bonnie Henderson
Kristi Porter
16 Naomi Roberts
18 Jared Craft
19 J D Robinson
Darrick Gust
David Kinsey
20 Ronnie Wolfe
Kim Crist
21 Chris Tolley
23 Barry Holland
24 Melina Marshall
26 Janice Wright
Alice Firebaugh
Ken Craven
27 Brenda Fowler
Pat Huffman
Sherry Sink
28 Eden O'Bryant
Andi Batsakis
29 Mark Painter
30 Gene Simmons





MUSIC NOTES……

I can't believe that I am writing my next to last newsletter article in the Dove and how appropriate it is in the month of November when we remember to thank God for all our blessings. I was recently listening to "Count Your Blessings" by Seph Schlueter and the words resonated with me so clearly. ***"One, two, three up to infinity, I'd run out of numbers, Before I could thank You for everything! And I know that seasons never last forever So, God I will remember all of the reasons my heart has to be grateful All the times You've been faithful to me."***

FUN FACT: I have used a verse from the book of Psalms in my monthly newsletter articles for 20 years and I haven't even scratched the surface. What a mighty God we serve!

We look forward to Missions Sunday on Sunday, November 8th. On Sunday, November 22, we will have a parent/child dedication and we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Our first Sunday of Advent 2026 will be on Sunday, November 29th.

With the first Sunday of Advent being on November 29th, we will have our Hanging of the Green Service at 6:00pm that evening. This is a family friendly service where we learn about and decorate the sanctuary with Christian symbols for Christmas. There will also be handbell music and our kids will be singing and other special music. This service is a great way to kick off your Christmas season!

Mark your calendars now! On December 6th, the Adult Handbell Choir will provide beautiful Christmas music in both services. On December 13th, ***"Glorious Night... When Christ Was Born***" Christmas Cantata at 3:00pm and 6:00pm. And you don't want to miss our children's choirs as they present their Christmas music on Sunday, December 20th at both services. MCBC has so much music to look forward to in the next two months!

For His Glory
Cindie

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, November 18



6:30pm

In the Fellowship Hall



All children's activities will go on as scheduled. The adult choir will practice at 7:35.

Church Office Closed



The church office will be closed Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Church-Wide Prayer Meeting



Wednesday, November 4
5:45-6:20pm
In Room M-1

Welcome New Members



Mark & Pam Austin join by transfer of letter. Their address is 496 Arch Mill Road, Buchanan, 24066.

Lauren & Jim Kessler join by statement of faith. Their address is 2807 Stoney Battery Road, Troutville, 24175.

Daniel Rader joins by statement of faith and his wife, Anna, joins by transfer of letter. Their address is 10266 Lee Highway, Fincastle, 24090.

Ken Craven joins by profession of faith and baptism and his wife, Fay, joins by transfer of letter. Their address is 1819 Old Lawyers Road, Marshville, NC 28103.

Our church family rejoices in their decisions.



As we enter the month of November, I'm reminded of just how much we have to be thankful for. One of the things I am especially thankful for is the opportunity to be a part of Mill Creek Baptist Church and to serve our students and their families.

It is a privilege to walk alongside our middle and high school students as they grow in their faith, navigate life, and learn what it means to follow Jesus. I'm also incredibly thankful for the parents and families who faithfully invest in the lives of their students and partner with us in that journey. I'm also grateful for the leaders and volunteers who give their time and energy to make youth ministry possible, and I'm thankful for a church that cares deeply about the next generation.

Every Wednesday night, Sunday morning, youth event, and conversation, serves to remind me just how blessed we are at Mill Creek. God has been so good to us and I can't wait to see the work He continues doing in and through us in the years to come. My prayer is that our students would not simply know about God, but truly know Him, own their faith, and make Him known wherever He has placed them.

Thank you, Mill Creek, for allowing me the privilege of serving here. I am genuinely grateful for this church, for our students, for their families, and for all that God is doing in and through our youth ministry. **What a blessing it is to be part of the Mill Creek family!**

Josh Witt
Minister of Youth



Upcoming Events:
11/8-Youth Fundraiser Lunch
11/13- Reverb ($72)
11/15- Youth Volunteer Training
11/29- $100 balance due for The Edge Conference
12/16- Youth Christmas Party
1/13/27- $75 Deposit due for World Changers (6/28-7/3)

Parent Corner:
Cultivating Gratitude

Our teenagers' world is filled with instant gratification and a constant message that there is something else that they "need" next. It's no surprise that an attitude of thankfulness for what they do have is not promoted in our culture. BUT…gratitude can be cultivated. Like a garden, it is something that takes work, patience, and persistence. Since I'm sure many families will spend some time this month talking about thankfulness, here are a few tips on how we can cultivate gratitude in our teenagers (and our own) lives:

- **Model It.** Let your teenagers hear you thank God for even the ordinary things in your life. Gratitude is most powerful when they see it actually lived out.
- **Talk about it.** At dinner, in the car, at the end of the day, ask "*What's something you're thankful for today?*" Simple conversations help develop gratitude in our hearts.
- **Put it into action.** Look for opportunities to serve and bless others as a family. Gratitude grows when we recognize how much we've been given and look for ways to give to others.
- **Recognize the Giver.** Our ultimate goal isn't simply to raise thankful teenagers, but to help them see and recognize God's goodness and respond by giving thanks to Him.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

Count Your Blessings

As November begins, the calendar nudges us toward Thanksgiving, and a familiar old hymn comes to mind. Johnson Oatman, Jr. wrote "Count Your Blessings" in 1897, and its refrain makes a simple invitation: *count your blessings, name them one by one; count your many blessings, see what God has done.* It's an easy thing to sing and a harder thing to practice. Most of us would say we're thankful, but when life gets busy, gratitude tends to stay a feeling we assume we have rather than a habit we've built.

Scripture teaches us to be thankful on purpose. The psalmist tells himself to bless the Lord and remember all His benefits (Psalm 103:2). We usually don't choose to be ungrateful; we simply get distracted. Paul tells the Thessalonians to give thanks in all circumstances because this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This doesn't mean ignoring hard times. It means trusting in God's goodness, sovereignty, and constant presence.

There's also an overlooked discipleship lesson in the story of the ten lepers in Luke 17. Ten were healed, but only one turned back to thank Jesus. The other nine received the same gift, and I suspect they were happy about it, but only one stopped, looked up, and said thank you. Gratitude is how we notice that our blessings have a Giver. When we count them, we're not just making a list. We're turning our eyes back to the One who gave them, and that changes how we see everything else.

So, here's a simple challenge for the month ahead. Between now and Thanksgiving, take a few minutes each day to write down two or three specific blessings. Skip the big, obvious ones and look for the small ones too: a good conversation, a meal at the table, a verse that landed at just the right time, a friend who showed up. Share them with your family at dinner or tell someone at church how God has been good to you. Don't be surprised if the list gets longer than you expected.

My prayer is that this season finds all of us a little more aware of God's goodness, and a little quicker to say thank you. As the old hymn reminds us, when we take the time to name what we've been given, we see more clearly what God has done.

Brad Hamilton
Minister of Discipleship and Outreach



Fall Mission Trip to the Apartments

Saturday, November 7th

10:00am

D***o not forget to do good and to share with others… Hebrews 13:16***



Join the Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers **at 10:00am in the small fellowship hall** near the kitchen as we prepare to visit the residents of the Royal Apartments and the Senior Residences (adjacent to the church). We need your help in getting ready for this mission adventure! There will be bags to decorate and pack, a sweet treat to assemble, and a craft to make. Once we are ready, **we will go to visit our neighbors and share the love of Jesus with them.** Following our trip, we will return to the church for a brief time of sharing and a quick snack.

Everyone is welcome! **Children will need to be accompanied by an adult.** Need more information? Contact Hannah Rogers at 540.557.7972 by text or phone call. Giving her the names of those who will be participating will help us with planning.



From the Deacons' Desk

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."
Psalm 136:1

As a child I can remember hearing adults saying how fast the years seem to go. It holds true for me now. We are once again just about two months away from the end of another year and as I look back, I have to say thank you, Lord, for your many blessings. Not just the obvious – my salvation, family and home, our church, our leadership here, my health and the blessing of a good job that provides, and the list goes on. But, also the unseen things that God spares us from that we will never be aware of.

We truly are blessed in more ways than we can even comprehend. I find the more time I spend being thankful and praising God for those blessings, the less time I think about all the things that seem to take precedence in my mind and life. Just like anyone else, I'm not always successful at counting my blessings as I should and will focus on the worries of life. But I do try and remind myself often how truly blessed I am. This is my challenge to you in this season of thankfulness… to be reminded of your blessings and to give thanks.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our deacons. I am truly blessed by them and their willingness to serve so faithfully. We have several deacons rotating off this year: Curtis Akers, Adam Bowser, Ron Ernest, John Powell and Chad Simmons.

Help me welcome the deacons that will be serving for the next three years: Dan Bowser, Laura Epperly, Wayne Ferguson, Dan Lucas, Erik Olson and Pat Shotwell. I am grateful for them and for those who are continuing to serve.

Be on the lookout for updates from our deacons as we are updating our family lists with the rotations and new members joining!

Blessings to you all,
Tony Holdren, Deacon Chair

Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 5

We need your help! If you would like to donate baked goods or crafts, contact Nancy Epperly at 540-520-6600; items for Santa's Workshop, contact Laura Epperly at 540-520-5768; or items for the White Elephant sale, contact Judy Deel at 540-759-1914.



Rugging

The **ruggers will gather at the home of Judy Deel** (2136 Blue Ridge Tpk Fincastle) **on November 19 at 1:00pm.** Come and join the fun! Contact Judy at 540.759.1914 for more information.



We are excitedly welcoming new members, and are grateful for our long-time faithful blanket makers! Please join us for our last fellowship and training session of 2026 on **November 19 at 10:00am and 6:00pm**. There will be no formal meeting in December. We will resume in January on the 3rd Thursday, January 21, 2027. If you have any questions, please call or text Sharon Ernest at 540-874-5074. You have the option of working from home, or at church, or both!! All materials and supplies are provided. You need only bring your smile and friends!

An Exciting Next Chapter for the Music Ministry at Mill Creek

Over the past several months, the Minister of Music Search Committee has been prayerfully working to identify the individual God is leading to serve as our next Minister of Music following Cindie Hayden's retirement at the end of this year.

We have been blessed to receive a number of resumes from individuals interested in serving our church. After careful review, thoughtful discussion, and much prayer, the committee is excited to share that we have identified **Morgan Thorne** as the candidate we believe God is leading us to recommend to the church.

Over the coming weeks, our church family will have opportunities to meet Morgan and experience Morgan's ministry firsthand.

We invite everyone to join us on **Wednesday evening, November 4th 6:30pm to 7:30pm**, for an informal question-and-answer session with Morgan. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted, learn more about Morgan's background and ministry, and ask questions. We encourage our entire church family to attend.

On **Sunday, November 15th**, a **called Business Meeting will be held following each worship service** for the purpose of voting on the Search Committee's recommendation to call Morgan Thorne as the next Minister of Music of Mill Creek Baptist Church.

As we look toward this new chapter, we are reminded of how richly God has blessed our church through Cindie Hayden's faithful leadership and dedication over the past twenty-plus years. We are deeply grateful for her ministry and look forward to celebrating Cindie and her many contributions to our church family later this year.

We ask that you continue to pray for Morgan, the Search Committee, and our entire church family as we seek God's guidance and follow His plan for the future of music ministry at Mill Creek.

Minister of Music Search Committee (Forrest Rush, Stan Strickler, Susan Plenge, Kelly Olson, Alan Berry)
Mill Creek Baptist Church

Sweet Treats for School Personnel

On September 24, eighteen volunteers gathered to prepare over 900 encouragement cards for all the school staff in Botetourt County. Candy was taped to each card and placed in bags for every school as well as BTEC, the central office, and the operations center. School board members and the superintendent also received an encouragement card. A thank you card expressing dedication to the students was included with each bag. Sweet treat cards were also prepared for our Mill Creek Child Care Staff. Thanks to all who participated in this ministry of our church. Please continue to pray for all students, parents, and staff members.







Christmas Cards for VETS



We are working with Bill Price of Sirens and Salutes to provide Christmas greetings to veterans in our community and you can be a part of this ministry. **Sirens and Salutes** is a local 501c3 non-profit that Honors and Memorializes Veterans and First Responders. Each year they seek to give Christmas cards to 500 – 600 veterans. Our Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers are working on their cards and we are inviting you to join in. Signed cards can be placed in the Christmas box as you enter the fellowship hall. These cards for vets are needed no later than November 18th. Also, new cards for others to sign are needed and they can be placed in the donation box on or before November 8. If you choose to sign a Christmas card for a veteran, please make it personal – add a note of appreciation and include words of encouragement and a scripture verse. Sign your name, if you wish or mention that you attend Mill Creek Church. Our greetings will be delivered to veterans and we want to honor them and thank them for their dedication to protecting our freedom.

The Backpack Ministry would like to say thank you for all of your generous peanut butter donations. We received approximately 1,147 jars! We are so blessed that we are able to continue to provide peanut butter for the Buchanan Elementary students who are a part of our ministry. Your generosity also allowed us to share with backpack buddies, food pantries, and other organizations in our county. In addition to the 400+ jars needed for our Mill Creek Baptist Backpack Ministry, we were able to share with the following:

Mill Creek Child Care Center

Fincastle Methodist Church for their Backpacks

Troutville Baptist Church Food Pantry

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Food Pantry

Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers for Mission Trips to the Apartments

Springwood Baptist Church Food Pantry

United Methodist Church at Eagle Rock

Botetourt Resource Center

Cloverdale Church of the Brethren Food Pantry

Buchanan Presbyterian Food Pantry

Again, thank you and God bless each and everyone. Our church is such a blessing!

Dwight and Betsy Fix

BACKPACK Ministry



Thank you so much for the prayer blanket. It is beautiful and I know a lot of love went into it. It means a lot to me!
Love & hugs,
Peggy Wertz
(Wayne Wertz's sister-in-law)

Thank You

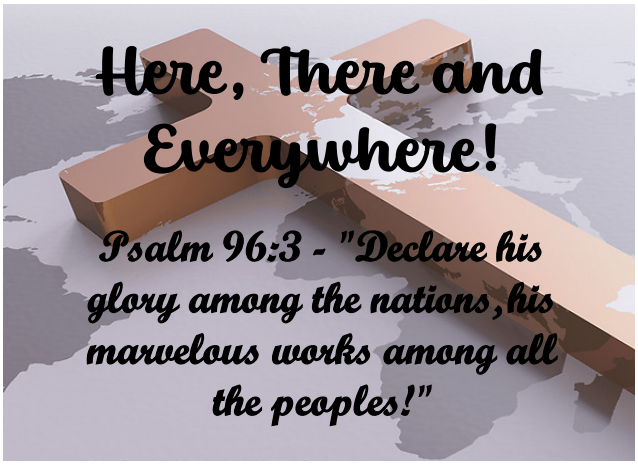
Mill Creek PB400 Winners

Adult Division - Helping Hands Class

Youth Division - Youth

Children's Division - 2nd/3rd Grade Class

Missions Sunday
November 8



Join us on Missions Sunday, November 8th, as we celebrate the many ways that God is leading and using our church to share the Gospel in our community and around the world. Our guest speaker will be Maria Lynn, Director of Standing Rock Ministry Inc, which is a ministry partnership supporting Lakota and Dakota communities on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North and South Dakota.

Also, our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be dedicated. Please join us on this special Sunday and prayerfully consider where God may be leading you to take the gospel into the world.

MINISTRY FAIR

connect·grow·serve

9:30—10:45am

In the Fellowship hall

No Adult or Youth Sunday School.

Children's Sunday School will meet.

The aim of this fair is to promote Sunday School classes, ministries, and missions at Mill Creek. Please come and learn more about our different opportunities to connect, grow and serve.



Mission Meal

Hosted by the Youth

10:45am & 12:00pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread & Brownies

Eat in or take out.

Proceeds will be used to support youth activities.



Missions at Solomon's Mission on November 3rd

Do you want to know more about the ministries of Solomon's Mission? Then you will want to join the Daytime Mission Group on **Election Day** at Solomon's Mission (592 Lowe Street Buchanan) for a time of learning about **this BOTETOURT COUNTY** ministry that has been serving our community for 16 years. The meeting begins at 10am and all are welcome. **Teresa Rothwell** will be sharing updates about Solomon's. **We will be collecting items to be used in their Thrift Store ministry – safety pins, rubber bands (medium and large), clear packing tape, gallon/quart ziplock bags, 13-gallon white trash bags. Small detergents (dish and laundry) are also needed. These will be given on Solomon's Senior Days. Lunch will be provided** and we will be able to do a little thrift shopping! Need more information? Contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914)

2026 BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER

Living the Good News

FAITH IN ACTION

Monday, November 2nd

Troutville Baptist Church

Fellowship Time at 9:30am

Program and Prayer at 10:00am

Contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914) for more information.

On this day, we join our sisters in Christ from more than 100 countries and together we pray for each other and the needs of our world. We will also hear from Teresa Rothwell, Director of Solomon's Mission, and how "Faith in Action" is the foundation of their ministry.



Blood Drive

Saturday, November 7

9:00am-1:00pm

Mill Creek Baptist Church

We are sponsoring another blood drive in cooperation with Buchanan Baptist Church. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter BuchananBaptist to schedule an appointment. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Dear Members of Mill Creek Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer blanket. I love the blanket and its bright colors, but not more than I love the many prayers and your sweet thoughtfulness!

Thank you so much again!

In Christ's love,
Janet Updyke



Mill Creek WMU,

Thank you again for your food donation and monetary donation to our food pantry. We are so blessed to have churches like Mill Creek to support our food pantry ministry.

Love,
Rita Goodbar
Troutville Baptist Church



Operation Christmas Child
National Collection Week
November 16-November 23

It's Finally Here – Operation Christmas Child! Time to fill Christmas boxes and to bless children around the world with the love of Jesus! For every box received by a child, it is estimated that 7 people hear the gospel. Imagine you can bring God's message of salvation to so many! Boxes are available at the exits and above the coat rack in the fellowship hall. **As a reminder, no soap, candy, or toothpaste can be included**. Also, each year we assemble a team to receive the completed boxes, count, pack and send hundreds of donations to Operation Christmas Child. We meet wonderful people from our community as we are the hands and feet of Jesus. If you are interested in serving any of the dates during collection week, please contact me at 614-530-2899. You will be blessed!

Joyfully serving,
Donna Lucas

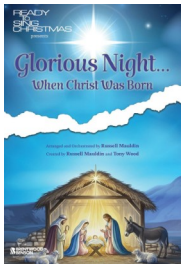


Drop-Off Week Hours:
Monday, November 16th, 4pm-6pm
Tuesday, November 17th, 12 noon-2pm
Wednesday, November 18th, 3pm-5pm
Thursday, November 19th, 4pm-6pm
Friday, November 20th, 10am-12noon
Saturday, November 21st, 9am-11am
Sunday, November 22nd, 12noon-2pm
Monday, November 23rd, 8:30am to 10:30am

Hanging of the Green
Sunday, November 29
6:00pm

Come enjoy Christmas music and participate in decorating the Sanctuary in preparation for the Advent Season. This is a casual family event for everyone.

Mark your calendars!



Christmas Cantata
"Glorious Night…When Christ Was Born"
December 13
3:00 & 6:00pm
with reception following

Gifts for the Philly Christmas Trip



On December 4-6, a group from Mill Creek will be making the annual trip to Philadelphia to carry presents to children at the ACTS Shelter at the Acts of the Apostles Church. The children to be ministered to are between the ages of newborn to 12 years old. Please pick up a present (or presents) to be sent to Philly when you are shopping and mark them for the appropriate age and gender. "Philly Presents" need to be brought to the church by **Sunday, November 29!** Thanks to each of you for all you do and may God bless you!!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

OCC November Collection
Donations for shipping

JOIN US FOR A

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

MILL CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
11475 LEE HWY, FINCASTLE, VA 24090

December 5
8:00am - 1:00pm

SANTA & SANTA SHOP FROM 10 - 12



SANTA

(Santa photos will be "take your own" this year. Donna Mack will be available to help you!)



WHITE ELEPHANT



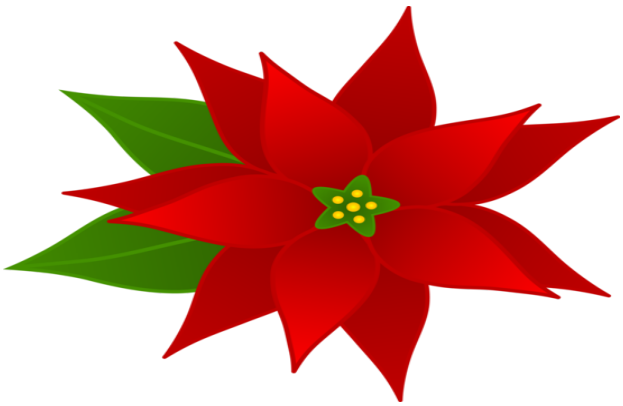
BAKE SALE



RAFFLE



BREAKFAST & LUNCH



Mill Creek Baptist

Missions Development Team

Offering Poinsettias for $10.00 each

Choose from Red or White

In Memory of:_____

_____

_____

In Honor of:_____

_____

_____

Given by:_____

Number Red Poinsettias_____

Number White Poinsettias_____

Last Date to order: November 22

Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers

Our Minis and Mighties have been super busy exploring God's Word and being the hands and feet of Jesus! By the time you read this we will have had a fun time with Trunk or Treat and learned how we are like pumpkins in God's pumpkin patch. He picks us, scoops the yucky out of our heart and we can let our light shine for Him.

We've learned about OCC Shoeboxes and will have a packing time soon with the help of our leaders and the Youth. So much fun!

During Bible Study time, we have been learning about people in the Old Testament and how God always provides what is needed and just at the right time. We have had so much fun making crafts to go with our Bible lessons, too.

We are super busy during our hour at church on Wednesday night! We are averaging between 70 and 80 children each Wednesday night and would love to have more little people join us and more volunteers.

Soooo.....you're invited and we hope to see you there!

Peggy Arbogast 540-520-0107

Child Care News

As November approaches, we want to express our gratitude for all the ways God has blessed our Center. We are fortunate to have wonderful children whose laughter brightens our days, supportive parents, and a truly dedicated staff. We also deeply appreciate the church staff and members who help our children feel loved and welcomed during their Wednesday night program, which now serves nearly 30 of our Mill Creek Child Care preschool and school-age children each week.

Each year, our Center participates in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. Our goal this year is to fill two boxes per classroom—one for a girl and one for a boy—across our preschool and school-age departments. Thanks to the generosity of our parents, we aim to donate 12 boxes total.





Recently, our preschoolers visited the Randy Daniels Room to watch a video and learn more about this initiative. Special thanks to Donna Lucas and Jeanette Tatum for taking the time to teach our children about the program, and to Brad Hamilton for setting up the video for us! The children are very excited to help fill these boxes for kids in need!

See you in December!

Cherry

Save the Date!

VBS 2027

July 11-15

As you are planning your 2027 vacations, please remember to keep this week open!!

Lottie's Post Office



Bring your Christmas cards for **people actively attending worship** beginning **Sunday, November 29 through Sunday, December 20** and "mail" them for 25 cents per card. All proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. **Lottie's Post Office will be located near the fellowship hall entrance.**

Please remember to check the post office to see if you have any cards!



November 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fluvanna Donations Deadline 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	2 9:30am Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer @ Troutville Baptist	3 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Greenwood Restaurant 10:00am Daytime Mission Group at Solomon's Mission	4 5:30pm Whole-notes & Half-notes Practice 5:45pm Prayer Meeting in Room M-1 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Q & A with Morgan Thorne, Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir	5	6	7 9:00am - 1:00pm Blood Drive @ Mill Creek 10:00am Family Mission Trip to the Apartments
8 Missions Sunday & Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Dedication 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Ministry Fair, Children's Sunday School, NO Adult or Youth Sunday School 10:45am Mission Luncheon for the Youth 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Mission Luncheon for the Youth	9 6:00pm BWNG Potato Bar in Fellowship Hall	10	11 5:30pm Whole-notes & Half-notes Practice 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir	12	13 Newsletter Articles Due Youth Participating in Reverb 6:30pm Disabled Sportsmen Deer Hunt Potluck Dinner @ Mill Creek	14 5:00am Disabled Sportsmen Deer Hunt Breakfast @ Mill Creek followed by the Hunt
15 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am Called Business Meeting 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Called Business Meeting, Deacons Meeting, Youth Volunteer Training	16 4:00pm - 6:00pm Operation Christmas Child Drop-off	17 12:00pm - 2:00pm Operation Christmas Child Drop-off	18 Christmas Cards for Vets Deadline 3:00pm - 5:00pm Operation Christmas Child Drop-off 5:30pm Whole-notes & Half-notes Practice 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Quarterly Business Meeting, Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	19 10:00am Prayer Blanket Ministry Team 1:00pm Rugging at Judy Deel's House 4:00pm - 6:00pm Operation Christmas Child Drop-off 6:00pm Prayer Blanket Ministry Team	20 10:00am - 12:00pm Operation Christmas Child Drop-off	21 9:00am - 11:00am Operation Christmas Child Drop-off
22 Deadline for Poinsettia Orders 8:30am Worship & Parent/Child Dedication 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship & Parent/Child Dedication 12:00pm - 2:00pm Operation Christmas Child Drop-off	23 8:30am - 10:30am Operation Christmas Child Drop-off	24	25 No Wednesday Evening Activities	26 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Hanging of the Green Service	30					

Mill Creek Baptist Church
11475 Lee Highway
Fincastle, Virginia 24090-4481
(540) 992-3474

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit Number 16

The Dove

Return Service Requested

Mill Creek Baptist Church

Pastor...……...Danny Quirin
Minister of Music...……..... Cindie Hayden
Minister of Discipleship & Outreach....Brad Hamilton
Minister of Youth……...……..…Josh Witt
Director of Children's Ministry……..Peggy Arbogast
Pianist……..Marcia Neighbors
Administrative Assistant……..……Sandra Kidd

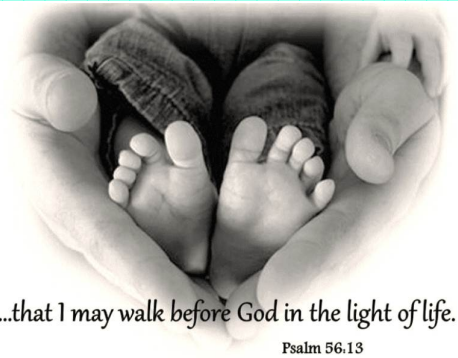
GREATER OUTDOOR MINISTRIES



Greater Outdoor Ministries
21st Anniversary
Disabled Sportsmen Deer Hunt

Potluck Dinner
Friday, November 13
6:30pm @ Mill Creek

Breakfast
Saturday, November 14
5:00am @ Mill Creek
Followed by the Hunt



...that I may walk before God in the light of life.
Psalm 56.13

Parent & Child Dedication
November 22

We will have a Parent & Child Dedication service on Sunday, November 22 during both worship services. If your family would like to participate, please contact the church office at 540-992-3474 or office@millcreekbc.com by Tuesday, November 17.