
The Dove

October 2026  Volume 51, Issue 10

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

Only God

As we turn the calendar from September to October, we find ourselves closing out another church year and beginning a new one. As I reflect on this past year, I want to pause and say “thank you” to all of you who have served on a committee or team during this past year and may be rotating off for this new church year. I want you to know how grateful I am for your diligent and often “behind the scenes” work in helping Mill Creek continue moving toward where God is leading us. Because of the faithfulness of so many who have been serving, we are once again ending our church year in a very good place, and I am in awe and so grateful to God as I reflect on what He did in our midst over the last year—things that **only God** is capable of!

- Scripture tells us that God grows the church, and He continues to grow His Body here at Mill Creek. As of the writing of this article, God has added thirty-six new members to our church family since October 1, 2025—twenty by transfer of letter or statement of faith and sixteen by Believers baptism. **Only God!**
- Our Sunday worship services continue to grow. For the past eleven months we have averaged 343 people per Sunday, up from 311 last year. This does not include those who join us online or watch our services later on our Web page or YouTube. **Only God!**
- Sunday School and small group discipleship opportunities are vitally important to our personal spiritual growth. We have averaged just over 230 per Sunday in Sunday School for the past 11 months which is up from 204 per Sunday in the previous year. **Only God!** We continue to offer discipleship studies apart from Sunday mornings. This past year we had groups participate in a variety of studies throughout the year as well as a Men’s Conference in August. **Only God!**
- We continue to have “first time guests” worship with us on a regular basis. It is not uncommon for a “first time guest” to say, “I have watched Mill Creek online for some time now” before they ever attend in person for the first time. **Only God!**
- Missionally, we continue to provide a number of local mission endeavors through our Backpack, Wood Cutting, Outdoor, Prayer Blanket, Rugging, The Carpenter’s Helpers, and other ministries. We sent out mission teams to the apartments next door, across our Commonwealth to Southwest VA, and across the US from Philadelphia to Standing Rock to Alaska and internationally to the Dominican Republic. All of this while often exceeding our goal in mission giving to our special mission offerings throughout the year. **Only God!**
- We enjoyed a “Reunion” worship service with Buchanan Baptist at Limestone Park in June, and we had a wonderful day of worship and celebration at Limestone Park in August for our church picnic and river baptism where we baptized two children, six teens, and three adults that afternoon. This was also the largest crowd we’ve ever had for the outdoor worship and church picnic. **Only God!**
- We added Brad Hamilton to our church staff as Minister of Discipleship and Outreach, and he continues to help us become stronger and more focused in these areas along with a variety of other gifts that he brings to our church body. **Only God!**
- As our Treasure’s report indicates, the faithful financial stewardship of our people has remained strong throughout the year even amid increasing inflation that has affected all of us in a variety of ways. **Only God!**

Looking back over this past year makes me excited for what God is doing here at Mill Creek and eager to see what He has in store for us in the coming year! **To God be all the glory and honor for the things He has done and is doing! Only God!**

Grace and Peace,
Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30 Service Nursery

October 4 Debbie Rago & Kelly Focht
 October 11 Debbie Rago & Kim Lawrence
 October 18 Debbie Rago & Jordan Kidd
 October 25 Debbie Rago & Jennifer Simmons

9:45 Sunday School Nursery

October 4 Ned & Rene Jeter
 October 11 Sandra Kidd & Annette Shaw
 October 18 Kayla Anhold & Rachel Witt
 October 25 Erik & Kelly Olson

11:00 Service Nursery

October 4 Anna Clark & Sarah Hammond
 October 11 Brook Mitchell & Kayla O'Bryant
 October 18 Melina Marshall & Ashleigh Kritzberger
 October 25 Victoria Chocklett & Sharon Ernest

8:30/11:00 Service Toddlers

October 4 Melissa Peery/Danielle Tolley
 October 11 Jeniifer Ferguson/Mary Bowser
 October 18 Kim Lawrence/Hunter Thompson
 October 25 Marybeth Rush/Andy Shotwell

8:30/11:00 Service Preschool

October 4 Sharon Ernest/Kayla O'Bryant
 October 11 Luke Winand/Rachel Witt
 October 18 Cindy Holland/Melanie Thacker
 October 25 Chelsea King/Nikki Cook

8:30 Service Greeters

October 4 Mark Painter, Pat Shotwell, Teresa Simmons, Nancy Epperly,
 Brian Stevens
 October 11 Judy Prease, Jimmy Brugh, John Plenge, Melissa Peery,
 Philip Christian
 October 18 Jerry & Sue Sweet, Pam Gibson, Lesa Mabe, Shawn Crist
 October 25 Debbie McAllister, Robbie & Carol Theimer, Pat Shotwell,
 Ronald Stevens

11:00 Service Greeters

October 4 Klayton Akers, Don Epperly, Melissa Peery, Deacon Witt,
 Hank Rogers
 October 11 Bruce Lightner, Wayne & Sandy Myers, Kelly Denison,
 Jonathan Simmons
 October 18 John Murphy, Brian Simpkins, Sidra White, Pam Morris,
 Adam Davis
 October 25 Donna Mack, Donnie Johnson, Ferguson Family, Harry &
 Curtis Akers, Bud Mack

8:30/11:00 Service Ushers

October 4 Mark Painter & Phillip Simmons/Melissa Peery & Klayton
 Akers
 October 11 Judy Prease & Jeff Gibson/Wayne & Sandy Myers
 October 18 Jerry & Sue Sweet / John Murphy & Brian Simpkins
 October 25 Nancy Epperly & Pat Shotwell / Donna Mack & Don Johnson

Our Kingdom Giving

	SS	8:30am Worship	10:45am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
August 30		310	(10:00 Drive-In)	\$3,546.00	\$268.00
September 6	200	157	128	\$15,885.00	\$2,587.00
September 13	252	212	134	\$21,513.00	\$846.00
September 20	217	157	119	\$10,496.00	\$525.00

Alma Hunt Offering Total as of 9/20/26: \$1,041.00

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

Happy October Birthday!

- 1 Gary Fix
Jonathan Thorne
Ollie Chapman
- 2 Emily Gust
Mark Shelton, II
- 4 Reagan Bisnett
Rachel Edmonds
Carson Witt
Philip Zahl
- 5 Isaiah Tolley
Kile Chapman
Moriah Chapman
- 6 Brian Johnson
- 7 Lois Crawford
- 8 Erin Swartzel
Heather Gilliland
Daniel Anderson
Jonathan Anderson
- 9 Chip Lawrence
Summer Shelton
Branden Dooley
- 10 Mack Neighbors
Donna Hubbard
Rucker Witt
Charlie Bisnett
- 12 Brooklyn Focht
Cindy Holland
Charlie Johnson
- 13 Carolyn Shotwell
- 14 Shirley Holdren
Carole Bays
Hannah Rogers
- 15 Mason Gilliland
Phyllis Simmons
Adam Davis
- 16 Clara Holland
Klayton Akers
- 17 Hallie Rush
- 18 Bubby Entsminger
Micah Neighbors
Lauren Brown
- 19 Shawn Crist
- 20 Pete Adamson
Dylan Nichols
- 22 Nancy Epperly
Mallory McGowan
Kathy Crawford
- 23 Richard Simpson
Terri Gregory
Dustin King
- 24 Lesa Mabe
Cathy Moskowitz
- 26 Fay Craven
- 27 Amy Hodges-Goodrich
Tony Holdren
- 28 Shari Crenshaw
- 29 Daniel Holter
Jeff Gibson
- 31 Patty Hamilton
Jason Markham

MUSIC NOTES.....



As we enter the month of October, I love to see God's handiwork all around us. I love the beautiful leaves, the hint of chill in the mornings and seeing our music ministry in full swing getting ready for fall and Christmas!



Thank you to Candace Monaghan for offering to have "Sunset in the Sunflowers" at Beaver Dam Farm. What a beautiful setting to sing our praises to the Lord and hear God's word!

Our Half-notes and Whole-notes are having so much fun learning new songs, playing desk bells and chimes. Our 5th graders get to play the "real" handbells. Both choirs will be presenting music on Sunday, October 18th at both services.

Our Adult Choir is busy working on some of our favorite songs from the last twenty years of me directing at MCBC. We are also working hard on our Christmas cantata. The music is so beautiful, and we can't wait for our congregation to hear it and worship with us. We are already praying for those who will come to hear the cantata this year.

Psalm 104:19 – "He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to set."

For His Glory
Cindie



The Prayer Blanket Ministry is continuing to meet once a month, typically on the third Thursday of each month. Our October date is set for October 15 and next month, it will be November 19, before the holidays. There will be no December meeting due to a full church Christmas calendar. We welcome anyone interested in learning how to make prayer blankets. All supplies and fabric are provided. If the meeting times do not suit, we can make arrangements to meet at church for a training session, at any time. We meet at 10 AM and 6 PM. Some of our blanket makers prefer to do their projects at church, and others take their blankets home to complete. The training meetings have evolved into a wonderful prayer and fellowship time. In September, we had several projects that were close to completion, and so we held an "in-between" fellowship, just for blanket making, and it was very successful and encouraging. Thank you for the many hands and hearts that are carrying this unique ministry solidly into the future to give folks tangible reminders of prayers spoken, and to remind us of God's love and faithfulness. Contact Sharon Ernest 540-874-5074 by text or phone with any questions.

Prayer Blanket Ministry Team



Welcome New Members

Ollie Chapman joins by profession of faith and baptism.. His address is 250 Ridgley Lane, Fincastle, 24090.

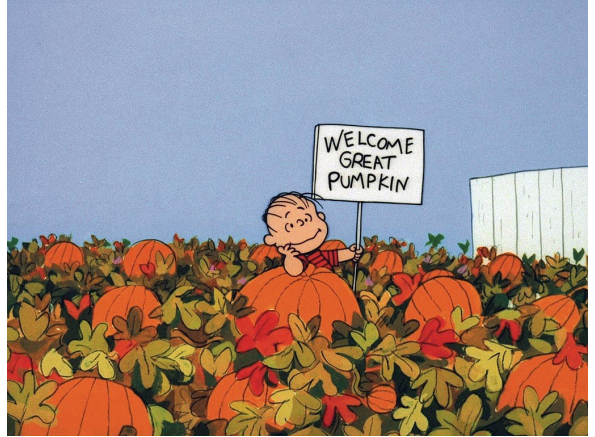
Our church family rejoices in his decision.



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Swanson in her passing.

When Hope Waits in the Pumpkin Patch

Every autumn, “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” invites us into a familiar world of falling leaves, costumes, candy, and childhood imagination. Linus believes that the Great Pumpkin will rise from the sincerest pumpkin patch and bring gifts to children everywhere. While the other children laugh at his expectation, Linus remains convinced. He spends the night waiting faithfully in the pumpkin patch, even persuading Sally to join him.



As the evening passes, the Great Pumpkin never appears. Charlie Brown returns from trick-or-treating with nothing but rocks in his bag, while Snoopy enjoys his own imaginative adventure as the World War I Flying Ace. At last, Linus and Sally leave the pumpkin patch disappointed, but Linus still refuses to surrender his hope. He tells Sally that the Great Pumpkin may have missed them this year, yet he will try again next year.

There is something both humorous and tender about Linus’s devotion. His expectations are misplaced, but his longing is recognizable. He wants to believe that the world contains wonder, that someone sees a sincere heart, and that waiting can lead to joy. As Christians, we also live as people of expectation. But our hope is not ultimately placed in a seasonal visitor, favorable circumstances, or the promise that life will unfold exactly as we imagine. Our hope rests in God, whose character is steadfast even when our circumstances are not.



Sometimes we wait faithfully and the answer does not come when we expect it. We pray for healing, but the diagnosis remains. We work on reconciliation, but the conversation is still difficult. We serve, give, and persevere, yet the results seem small. Like Linus in the pumpkin patch, we may find ourselves watching the darkness and wondering whether anyone is coming.

Faith does not mean pretending disappointment is impossible. Linus was genuinely disappointed, and Scripture gives us permission to be honest about our own disappointments. The Psalms are filled with questions, tears, and cries for help. Biblical hope is not wishful thinking; it is the confident trust that God is present and faithful, even when He does not meet our expectations in the way we imagined.

This distinction can reshape the way we serve others. As the people of Mill Creek, we are called to offer hope not by promising that every difficulty will quickly disappear, but by pointing people to the God who remains with them in every difficulty. Outreach becomes more than distributing resources or inviting someone to church. It becomes bearing witness to Christ’s presence through compassionate action, patient listening, prayer, and steadfast love.

The Great Pumpkin never came to Linus’s patch. But his story reminds us that longing for hope is part of being human. The gospel tells us that our hope is not imaginary. In Jesus Christ, God has come near in a way more wondrous than we could have expected. So let us wait with faith, serve with humility, and hope with confidence. And when our plans disappoint us, may we remember that God’s presence is not measured by whether the night unfolds as we expected. The Lord is already near, already at work, and already calling us to trust Him.

Brad Hamilton
Minister of Discipleship and Outreach



What a joy it was to see SO MANY students, teachers and staff participating in this year's See You At The Pole! I am proud of our Mill Creek students who made the commitment to show up and pray for their schools and our nation!

October is going to be a great month in the youth ministry. Fields of Faith is an event sponsored by FCA. We will join around 300 hundred other students for a time of worship on the football field at Northside High School. Also, don't forget to sign up for Reverb (November 13) by October 18 in order to get the early bird price of \$62. After the 18th, the price will go up to \$72.

On Wednesday nights in October, we will be going thru a series called "Zombies- The Book of Ephesians" where we will be looking at the Gospel truths that we were dead in our sins, but by grace we have been made alive thru faith in Christ. This will be a great month for students to invite their friends to join us for some possibly creepy, probably gross, but definitely good, clean fun on Wednesday nights!

Josh Witt
Minister of Youth

October Events:

10/11- Fields of Faith, Northside HS
10/18- Reverb Early Bird Deadline
10/28- Trunk-or-Treat



Parents' Corner:

Nate Bargatze Breaks All-Time Comedy Ticket Sales Record Without Cursing

The following is excerpted from an online article posted by Relevant

Nate Bargatze has sold more tickets than any stand-up comedian in history.

Guinness World Records presented him with the certificate onstage at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto on August 15. Ahead of the show, his "Big Dumb Eyes" world tour had sold approximately 2,016,254 tickets, passing the 1,981,720 Jeff Dunham sold on his "Spark of Insanity" tour.

He does all of it without cursing.

Everybody can do whatever they want, but there aren't many outlets where people can watch something and trust they won't have a weird conversation with their kid later — or feel awkward watching it with their parents," Bargatze told RELEVANT.

"That's why I do what I do," he said. "I want you to be able to sit there with your family and have fun and not be worried. I'm just trying to entertain you. I'm trying to give you a break. Everybody has stressful lives, and you really need an outlet — and I can be that for you."



Congratulations to Luke and Hattie Peay on the birth of their baby boy, Teddy. He was born on September 13 and weighed 8 lbs 5 oz and was 22 inches long.



Approvals

The 2026-2027 fiscal year proposed budget and the list of Officers & Committees that were presented at the September 16 business meeting were approved.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, October 7
5:45pm—6:20pm
In Room M-1



From the Deacons' Desk Fall Back into Church

As the autumn air turns crisp and the leaves begin to change, October invites us to "fall back" into the rhythm of community, worship, and fellowship. With the busy summer months behind us, this season provides a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, deepen our faith, and gather together in God's house. As we prepare our hearts for the upcoming holiday season, let us draw near to Him and to one another in gratitude and joy.

Looking ahead, the next few months will bring many opportunities to serve and celebrate together. From seasonal outreach ministries to holiday worship services, we invite you to get involved as we prepare to share Christ's light and love with our community. May this October be a warm time of renewal and joyful anticipation for all that God has in store.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."-Psalm 51:10

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."-Lamentations 3:22-23

Blessings in Christ,
Travis Holland
Deacon



Save the Date! RVBA WMU

**SWVA Mission Trip
February 28 –
March 4, 2027**

BookNet, Ditty Bags,
Construction, Behind
the Scenes Support

Informational meeting is
tentatively scheduled
for January.

More details to come!

Daytime Mission Group October 6 at 10am

The October meeting of the Daytime Mission Group will focus on two of our local food pantries. Guest speakers will be Anne Christensen from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and Rita Goodbar from Troutville Baptist. Bring an item or two for these ministries and come and learn about their impact on our community. In addition to learning about local missions, we will be writing notes to the women who are a part of the Standing Rock outreach in Kenel, SD. The group will also be preparing gallon Ziploc bags for our church-wide project of collecting toiletries and stationery for the inmates at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. Come and learn about missions and be actively involved! The meeting begins at 10am in the fellowship hall with a potluck lunch to follow. Questions? Contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914).

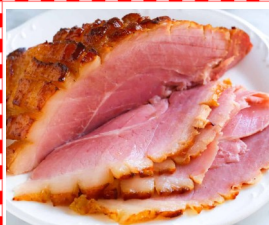
Save the Date! VBS 2027 July 11-15

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

Pastor is on Vacation



Pastor Danny will be on vacation
October 9-24. If you have
pastoral needs during this time,
please contact Cindie at (540)314-
6456, Josh at (540)521-9266,
Brad at (270)498-8284 or the
church office at (540)992-3474.



Mission Meal Sunday, October 18

Hosted by the Standing
Rock Mission Team

**Menu: Baked Ham or Hot Dog,
Green Beans, Macaroni and Cheese,
Rolls and Dessert**

**Lunches will be available after Sunday
School and the 11:00 service.**

Eat in or take out.

**Proceeds will go toward the
2027 Standing Rock Mission trip.**

LOVE LIFE

A 40 Week Journey of Hope

Every year, Love Life partners with thousands of believers from local churches and community leaders to prayer walk outside the darkest places in our cities – the local abortion center. Our “40 Week Journey of Hope” is based on a baby’s life in the womb from conception to birth. Every prayer walk consists of a time of prayer, worship, testimonies, the “tragic truth”, and an opportunity to connect with Love Life ministries beyond the prayer walk.

This is not a protest, but a time of prayer and worship.

Mill Creek’s Adoption Week – October 4-10

Wednesday, October 7 - The church is called to fast and pray for the lives of the unborn.

Saturday, October 10 - We, the church, meet to pray, worship, and connect.

Where? Westminster Presbyterian Church
2216 Peters Creek Road NW,
Roanoke

When? 9:00-10:30am

Who? EVERYONE!!

Upcoming Vote at the RVBA Fall Meeting

Mill Creek is part of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association. The RVBA is comprised of 45 Baptist churches who cooperate together missionally to minister to needs in the Roanoke Valley and beyond for the advancement of God’s Kingdom. The RVBA is led by an Associational Mission Strategist who networks with the various churches to help them in a variety of ways. Each year the Association has two meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall and as a church we send “messengers” to these meetings. The messengers vote on behalf of their church when decisions are being made.

The upcoming RVBA fall meeting is being held on Tuesday, October 27, at 7:00 PM at Hollins Road Baptist Church. We will be voting on a new Associational Mission Strategist at this meeting, and we need nine church members to serve as messengers from our church to this meeting. Pastor Danny has served on the Search Team for this position for several years and the team is excited to present Rev. J. R. Graybill to the RVBA to fill this position. If you would like to attend the meeting as a messenger you will need to contact Sandra Kidd at the church office no later than, Friday, October 16 so we can submit your name to the RVBA.

Rugging October 22nd at 1pm Home of Judy Deel (2136 Blue Ridge Tpk, Fincastle)

Bring your rugging,
your crocheting, your
favorite craft OR ...
just bring yourself!
All are welcome!
Need more info? Call
540.759.1914



Our Gift Ministry to Women at the Fluvanna Correctional Center

*Then the King will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.*

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.'
Matthew 25: 34-36*

The gift ministry to **women who are incarcerated** in this state facility operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections in Troy, Virginia has been in existence since the correctional center opened in 1998. Mill Creek began to participate in 2016. Our church along with individuals, churches, and organizations throughout the state work with **Virginia's prison chaplain service, GraceInside**, to bless each inmate with a gallon size Ziploc bag of **toiletries** and **stationery items**. Our donations will be delivered by our Men's Breakfast Group to Effort Baptist Church in Palmyra where volunteers will prepare them for delivery. In 2025, at the request of the chaplain at the prison, cards and hygiene items were delivered in July and hygiene items again in December. At this time, the plan is to deliver cards in October and toiletries in December for 2026. For the first time since Covid, Effort Baptist Church volunteers were allowed to hand out the gifts in person in 2025 to some very grateful ladies.

Restrictions on our donations are very strict and the correctional center does not permit ANY substitute or additional items. So, please read and follow the list of approved donations. **Gallon Ziploc bags and the list will be given out on Sunday, October 11th for your convenience. All donations need to be received by Sunday, November 1st.**

Here's a complete list of the approved donations. **No substitutions or additional items will be allowed.**

Hygiene Items (place in a gallon zip lock bag) (NO TRAVEL SIZES)

1. One individually wrapped toothbrush (**must be in the original container; no caps; battery-operated toothbrushes are NOT permitted**).
2. One tube of toothpaste, 6 oz (**must be in the original container**).
3. One deodorant stick, 2.6 oz (**as close as possible to 2.6 oz; no spray or roll-on**).
4. One bottle of shampoo, 8 oz-18 oz (**as close as possible to 15 oz**).
5. One bottle of lotion, 8 oz-18 oz (**as close as possible to 15 oz**).

Greeting Cards and Stationery Items

1. Christmas cards and greeting cards for all occasions. All cards are sorted by a local team of volunteers. Cards that contain aluminum foil on the card or envelope flap **can't be used**.
2. Stationery items – tablets only

We have plenty of stamps, pencils, and envelopes at this time. No note pads or post cards please.

Money Contributions. For donors who wish to contribute money, please make your check payable to "GraceInside" and write "FCCW Resource Fund" in the Memo section. These funds are used to purchase any shortage of gift items and to support inmates in other ways, such as providing classroom materials; providing worship supplies; or paying travel expenses for funeral or deathbed visits. Please mail all checks to GraceInside, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294.

Standing Rock Mission Trip

There are mission trips that prove to be great trips and then there are those mission trips that I call “God Moment Trips” where you see HIS hand in all things.

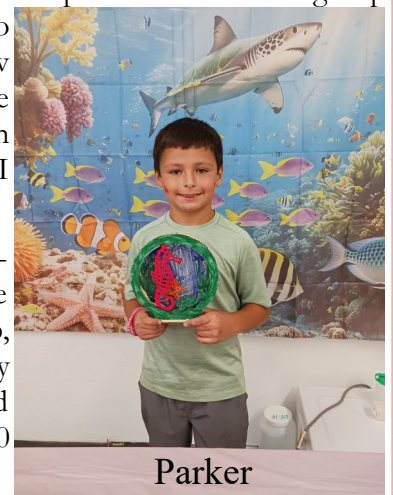
A group of five (four Miss Daisies driven by Hoke) left on July 15, 2026 from Judy Deel’s after being prayed for by Pastor Danny. We traveled to Evansville, Indiana on the first day, with a total of 552 miles under our belt. On Day 2 we were up early, meeting for breakfast, loading, having devotions from the backseat of our van, and prayer for the day from the front seat as we buckled up for our journey of 473 miles to St. Joseph, Missouri. The day ended with dinner at the hotel and an early bed call. Our prayer for Day 3 was to travel 410 miles to Watertown, S.D. This day proved to be a challenge with motel accommodation, but it also showed the flexibility and patience of our team. The night was topped off with God’s provision and ice cream. We began the next day with breakfast, baggage loaded, devotion, and prayer for a safe travel day with Day 4 on the horizon. The day would prove to be a much easier day as we stopped in Roscoe, S.D to visit a friend of 10 plus years and do a little shopping at her boutique (the only clothing store for miles). There is a sweet story that goes back such a long way with her. We did our Wal-Mart shopping in Aberdeen, S.D and our travel continued to Prairie Knights Resort, ND, where we were greeted with smiles and a warm welcome from the staff. It was good to be on the reservation again doing God’s work, planting



and watering seeds for Him. We were able to connect with the rest of our team from Coopers Cove. It was dinner, and off to a great night’s sleep because in the morning we would hit the mission field running for the week. Sunday morning proved to be an absolute God moment as we gathered as 131 strong to celebrate Pastor Boots and Jackie for all the years that they have served and will continue to serve on the reservation of Standing Rock.

Our week of ministry began in the small community of Kenel, SD on Monday, July 20th. I want to share with you this year’s story and a GOD moment I will always remember. As I left home on the first day, I was kicking and screaming not literally, but in my mind I was kicking and screaming!. Nearly two weeks later, I returned a new person because of a 10-year-old by the name of Parker. As we first made our plans to go to Standing Rock, my plan was to serve in the kitchen as a cook or to be a helper in the women’s group with Judy for the week. You see, in all the years I have been going to Standing Rock, I have never been able to serve in those two places. I knew this was not going to happen, because we were short on volunteers and the children’s group needed a teacher. Beth assured me she had the curriculum and crafts under control if I would just take the challenge on for the week. I did, still kicking and screaming in my mind.

On Monday as I waited for the children to arrive, I had (6) including this 10-year-old who thought no rules applied to him. I had met my challenge for the week. I prayed for patience and guidance that night as I tried to fall asleep, sometime in the middle of the night I prayed God would show me a way with Parker. You see, Parker was smart. He was a leader and others listened to him and followed his lead. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I had 10 students who were 8, 9 & 10-year-olds ... including Parker.



Parker

(continued on page 10)

Standing Rock Mission Trip (continued)

On Friday the goodbyes were hard as these sweet children had won my heart and I think in return I must have done something right as it took Parker coming to me 3 different times to say goodbye with hugs. The last time there were tears in our eyes as I assured him, I would do my best to return in 2027, and he promised to go to school and stay out of trouble. We prayed together as I left him in the hands of Jesus and we shared "I love you". I returned home, not screaming and kicking in my mind over something I had been called to do for Jesus, but returned home with a FULL heart and a blessing that will stay with me for a lifetime.

Please consider joining us for our 2027 Standing Rock mission trip which will be July 17-24.

Sue Sweet for the 2026 Standing Rock Mission Team



Self-Guided Prayer Experience

Friday, October 9, 2:00-6:00pm

Saturday, October 10, 8:00am-12:00pm
and 2:00-6:00pm

Sunday, October 11, 2:00pm-6:00pm

Make plans to attend "A People of Renewal", a self-guided prayer experience rooted in James 5:13-20. Come discover a rhythm of honest prayer, shared burdens, healing grace, and gentle restoration. Come whenever you're able, move at your own pace, and make space for renewal in God's presence. For more information, contact Pastor Brad at 270-498-8284 or brad@millcreekbc.com.

My family and I would like to thank MCBC for all the prayers, thoughts, cards and food in the death of my sister, Candis. It has been a difficult time and your support has meant the world to us. Thanks for being the best church family!

Cindie and Philip Hayden
Darren Yeatts (Candis' son)

Thank You!

Dear Prayer Blanket Ladies,

Just wanted to thank you all so much for the absolutely beautiful prayer blanket that you made for me! I was brought to tears over your kindness. I am planning on using it after my knee replacement surgery to keep me safe and warm! Your prayers are much appreciated. Life at times can be a struggle but with kind people like you it makes life so much better!

Much love & friendship,
Jennie Cook (Debbie Rago's friend)



Philly Christmas Trip

On December 5-7, 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. If you would like to go on this trip, please contact Tommy Moore by Sunday, October 25 as reservations will have to be made for motel rooms. Thanks to each of you for all you do and may God bless you!



Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers are in full swing. We have several new friends joining us this year as we explore God's Word.

Our children have been provided Mini and Mighty tote bags by Gene West Sales. This helps our children tote their Bibles and treasures to and from church.

The "ber" months are always busy and a fun time for sure! This October you will find us decorating pumpkins and even having a little Trunk or Treat fun while we explore God's Word through various stories, crafts and missions.

If you would like to join us, please contact Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107. We would love to have more children AND helpers!

Peggy Arbogast
Director of Children's Ministry



Operation Christmas Child

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

How does a simple shoebox show God's love? Many of the children who receive a shoebox have never received a gift in their life. Each shoebox contains the story of Jesus in a little book in their own language. If they receive Christ as their

Savior, they enter a discipleship class to continue their journey with Christ. Often, many of their family members come to see them receive their certificates, so many more hear the gospel and are saved!

This year at Mill Creek we will focus on the Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers packing party rather than a church wide packing party. We appreciate all of the monthly gifts placed in the collection box as you enter the fellowship hall. These gifts will be used to pack the shoeboxes at the children's packing party. Also, we encourage all Mill Creek families to pick up shoeboxes (that will be available soon) and share God's love with children and their families across the globe. You will be blessed! If you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child, please contact me (614-530-2899).

In Christ,
Donna Lucas



Trunk or Treat



**Wednesday, October 28
6:30pm**

We will be holding a Trunk or Treat for all Mill Creek children on Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30pm during Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers. We are looking for folks to setup from the trunk of their car and bring candy to hand out to the children. If you plan to decorate your vehicle, please be in the parking lot at the Child Care entrance no later than 6pm. If it rains, we will use the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join the fun, please contact Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107.

**Mill Creek Child Care
Trunk or Treat
Friday, October 30
10:00am**

The Mill Creek Child Care Center will have a Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 30. We are looking for volunteers to set up and give out candy to our Child Care children. (Candy will be provided.) You can dress in your Halloween best and decorate your trunk or you can just come as you are and give out candy. If it rains, we will setup inside the church. If you are willing to participate, please contact Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107.



Child Care News

Happy Fall to everyone! We are excited to finally be experiencing some real autumn weather. It has been so hot since our fall program started on August 12th that the children have barely been able to play outside in the afternoons. Since our students love playing outdoors, we are thrilled to enjoy everything this season has to offer!

We kicked off our fall program on September 15th with a fun-filled field trip to the Sunflower Festival. For some of our preschoolers, this was their very first bus ride and field trip! We took 38 excited children and 7 staff members, and we were grateful to be joined by several parent volunteers. The children enjoyed a



hay wagon ride, walking through the sunflowers,

playing in the sunflower bins, and petting the new Highland calves. Our preschoolers also enjoyed their first visit to the Buchanan Library. The librarians hosted a wonderful story time, and each child checked out two books to take home until our next visit next month.

Additionally, Joe and Sharon, owners of Joe's Photography, came to take fall pictures with our preschoolers on September 23rd. Most of the children were happy to pose, though a few needed a little persuasion from their teachers!

We currently have 56 preschoolers and 50 school-age children enrolled for the start of our fall program. It is a wonderful feeling to be a part of so many children's lives as we help them learn and grow.

See you in November! Cherry





October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	5	6 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Greenwood Restaurant 9:30am Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Fellowship House 10:00am Daytime Mission Group in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Randy Daniels Room	7 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 Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	8	9 2:00pm - 6:00pm "A People of Renewal" Self-Guided Prayer Experience	10 8:00am - 12:00pm "A People of Renewal" Self-Guided Prayer Experience 9:00am Love Life Prayer Walk @ Westminster Presbyterian Church 2:00pm - 6:00pm "A People of Renewal" Self-Guided Prayer Experience
11 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 2:00pm - 6:00pm "A People of Renewal" Self-Guided Prayer Experience 4:45pm Youth to Fields of Faith	12 6:00pm BWNG Potluck in Fellowship Hall - Guest Speaker Teresa Rothwell	13 9:30am Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Fellowship House 6:00pm Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Randy Daniels Room	14 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 Practice	15 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00am Prayer Blanket Ministry Team 6:00pm Prayer Blanket Ministry Team	16 5:00pm - 8:00pm DR Mission Team Yard Sale	17 8:00am DR Mission Team Yard Sale
18 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Mission Luncheon for Standing Rock Mission Team 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Deacons Meeting 12:00pm Mission Luncheon for Standing Rock Mission Team	19	20 9:30am Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Fellowship House 6:00pm Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Randy Daniels Room	21 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 Practice	22 1:00pm Rugging at Judy Deel's House	23	24
25 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	26	27 9:30am Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Fellowship House 6:00pm Women's Bible Study "James: Mercy Triumphs" in Randy Daniels Room 7:00pm RVBA Fall Meeting @ Hollins Road Baptist Church	28 5:30pm Whole-notes & Half-notes Practice 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Trunk or Treat for all Mill Creek Children 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	29	30 10:00am Trunk or Treat for Child Care	31

Mill Creek Baptist Church
11475 Lee Highway
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(540) 992-3474

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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



**Dominican Republic
Mission Team
Yard Sale**
in the fellowship hall
Friday, October 16
5—8pm with supper available
Saturday, October 17
8am with breakfast available

