

It Wasn't Just a Seat

I recently had a conversation with a pastor friend who was disheartened and disgruntled. He was telling me that he was tired of seeing decline in numbers and tired of the excuses people were sharing as to why they weren't regular in their church attendance. He said that one Sunday he had a conversation with his deacon chairman who said to him, *"Pastor, let me be real, there are those who say they're not being fed here. Others feel like we don't sing enough real worship songs and honestly, I didn't connect with the message today. I think what we need are some young families here."* I mostly listened as my friend vented and internally, I was praising God for His church here at Mill Creek. The thoughts he shared from a long-time Christian tells me that somewhere along the way, the purpose of the church got inverted in that deacon's mind. I'm always intrigued that after voicing excuses like the first three, the deacon thought the way to fix the problem was young families. I don't think that will do the trick. That church leader's thinking says a lot about the lack of discipleship, personal responsibility, and understanding of what it means to mature in our personal faith. At some point, for this complainer, church became a place to consume, rather than a community sent to serve and young families won't fix his attitude. As a matter of fact, if more young families did begin to come to his church, my guess is that he would probably add the noise and mess that children were making to his complaint list.

The New Testament is clear that spiritual maturity produces a decreasing concern for personal preference and an increasing willingness to lay aside personal desires for the sake of others. Mature Christians should, by definition, be the easiest people in the church to ask to sacrifice something. I believe that is what **Philippians 2:1-11**, especially **verses 3-4**, are all about. In **Mark 10:43-44** Jesus spoke about this very thing to His disciples when He said, ***"Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all."*** Too often we tend to think of this as doing behind-the-scenes work without recognition. But the deeper lesson Jesus is getting at is the same that Paul later reinforced in **Philippians 2**, **a follower of His should be the most willing person in any room to not get their own way. Their preferences, their comfort, their idea of what a good Sunday looks like...all of those kinds of attitudes should be placed on the altar in pursuit of Christ's kingdom.**

Why am I sharing this? Because it wasn't long after my conversation with my friend that I witnessed two different times on the same Sunday that people gave up "their seats" in the sanctuary. On August 16, as I was greeting a couple of first-time guests who were already seated in the sanctuary, they asked if they were sitting in someone's seat. I assured them they were fine and that we don't have assigned seats at Mill Creek. About that same time, some folks who typically sit in that area came in. They greeted the guests, spoke kindly with them, and moved to a spot nearby. That afternoon we gathered to celebrate Lewis Sifford's life. As the sanctuary began to fill, Tony Holdren went to the Fellowship Hall to set up the overflow viewing area. I came to realize that people didn't come to remember Lewis and support his family by sitting separated from the larger gathering. There came a point about five minutes prior to the service starting where people were standing against the back walls and standing in the foyer. I stepped up to the pulpit and simply said, "Mill Creek family, there are friends of Lewis' who are here and are having to stand. Can I ask our Mill Creek family to give up your seats and come and sit in the choir loft?" Without hesitation, a good number of you who were able, got up out of your seats and moved to the choir loft giving your seat for others to be comfortable. That is a prime example of what I think Jesus and Paul were saying.

Let me say "Thank you" to those who moved to a less comfortable spot during worship or at the funeral so that our guests would be more comfortable. For those at the funeral, thank you for sitting behind me and facing everyone else so guests, possibly even first-time guests to Mill Creek, could experience a glimpse of sacrificial love in a gesture as small as giving up your seat. I had two different people, whom I had not met until speaking with them after the service, comment on the fact that someone gave up their seat for them. Giving up your seat was much more than allowing someone who was standing to sit. It was an expression of having a servant's heart and an increasing willingness to lay aside personal desires for the sake of others. ***"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*** Philippians 2:3-4 ESV.

Grace and Peace,
Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30 Service Nursery Workers

September 6 Debbie Rago & Clara Holland
 September 13 Debbie Rago & Bonnie Davis
 September 20 Debbie Rago & Chelsea King
 September 27 Debbie Rago & Morgan Thorne

9:45 Sunday School Nursery

September 6 Rachel Witt & Ned Jeter
 September 13 Kacey & Dylan Bryan
 September 20 Annette Shaw & Rene Jeter
 September 27 Kelly & Erik Olson

11:00 Service Nursery Workers

September 6 Lara Lee Strickler & Kayla Anhold
 September 13 Anna Clark & Kayla O'Bryant
 September 20 Mary Bowser & TBD
 September 27 Victoria Chocklett & Danielle Tolley

8:30/11:00 Service Toddlers

September 6 Melissa Peery/Danielle Tolley
 September 13 Jeniifer Ferguson/Mary Bowser
 September 20 Kim Lawrence/Hunter Thompson
 September 27 Marybeth Rush/Andy Shotwell

8:30/11:00 Preschool

September 6 Sharon Ernest/Kayla O'Bryant
 September 13 Luke Winand/Rachel Witt
 September 20 Cindy Holland/Melanie Thacker
 September 27 Chelsea King/Nikki Cook

8:30 Service Greeters

September 6 Nancy Epperly, Pat Shotwell, Teresa Simmons, Mark Painter, Brian Stevens
 September 13 Judy Prease, Jimmy Brugh, Melissa Peery, John Plenge, Philip Christian
 September 20 Jerry & Sue Sweet, Pam Gibson, Lesa Mabe, Shawn Crist
 September 27 Debbie McAllister, Pat Shotwell, Carol & Robbie Theimer, Ronald Stevens

11:00 Greeters

September 6 Klayton Akers, Don Epperly, Melissa Peery, Deacon Witt, Hank Rogers
 September 13 Bruce Lightner, Wayne & Sandy Myers, Kelly Denison, Jonathan Simmons
 September 20 John Murphy, Brian Simpkins, Sidra White, Pam Morris, Adam Davis
 September 27 Donna Mack, Don Johnson, Fergusons, Harry & Curtis Akers, Bud Mack

8:30/11:00 Ushers

September 6 Mark Painter & Phillip Simmons/Melissa Peery & Klayton Akers
 September 13 Judy Prease & Jeff Gibson/Wayne & Sandy Myers
 September 20 Jerry & Sue Sweet/ John Murphy & Brian Simpkins
 September 27 Nancy Epperly & Pat Shotwell/ Donna Mack & Don Johnson

Our Kingdom Giving

	SS	8:30am Worship	10:45am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
August 2	258	168	159	\$19,953.00	\$2,427.00
August 9	241	172	163	\$19,490.00	\$695.00
August 16	240	173	157	\$10,391.00	\$170.00
August 23	243	196	165	\$21,422.00	\$785.00

Remember that in order to meet our annual unified budget, we need \$12,988/week in offerings.

Happy September

Birthday!

- 1 Sandy Moore
Carson Wheeler
- 2 Phillip Simmons
- 5 Bill Moskowitz
- 6 Piper Booze
- 7 Pat King
- 8 Liam Camper
Sidra White
Caryn Connor
Wayne Ferguson
- 9 Paisley Ulma
- 10 Sandy Hodges
Bailey Marshall
- 12 Jordan Kidd
Cole Wheeler
- 13 Katherine Carter
- 14 Aaron Humphries
Matthew Marshall
Erik Olson
Blair Bisnett
Devon Andrews
- 15 Debbie Rago
Reena Anderson
Ken Smith
Cliff McGowan
- 16 Lincoln Blair
Duncan Imron
Essie Witt
- 17 Dennis Davis
Kayla O'Bryant
- 18 Regarna Pannell
- 19 Anne Caldwell
Karen Harth
Wyatt Mabe
- 20 Vicki Amos
Todd Wampler
Cheri Williams
- 21 Ryan Markham
Ron Ernest
Emily Dooley
- 22 Jerry Fink
Mary Hinman
Lake Peyton
Cindy St.Clair
- 23 Jake Booze
Bill Potter
Adrianne Lahar
- 24 Harry Akers
John Edmonds
- 25 Susan Hodges
Debra Owen
- 26 Barbara Moseley
- 27 Melissa Cook
Hunter Thompson
- 28 Judy Deel
JJ McGowan
- 29 Hudson Olson
Arlo Imron
Jeffrey Lahar
Daisy Rogers

Happy Birthday

*The church
office will be
closed Monday,
September 7,
in observance of Labor Day.*



Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, September 2



5:45pm—6:20pm
In Room M-1

MUSIC NOTES.....



Happy September! The music ministry is off and running. All our choirs have started! Our Half-notes choir meets on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. Half-notes are ages 3 – kindergarten. Our Whole-notes choir is also on Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 6:10pm. Whole-notes are grades 1 – 5. We take the kids to supper that are staying for Wednesday night activities or you can pick your child up after choir. Our Adult Choir also meets on Wednesdays beginning at 7:35pm and we are working on our Christmas Cantata! Please know that it's not too late to join our Christmas choir. I invite anyone who would still like to sing with us for Christmas to come to rehearsal by September 9th or just let me know if you are interested! You may join the adult choir at any time.

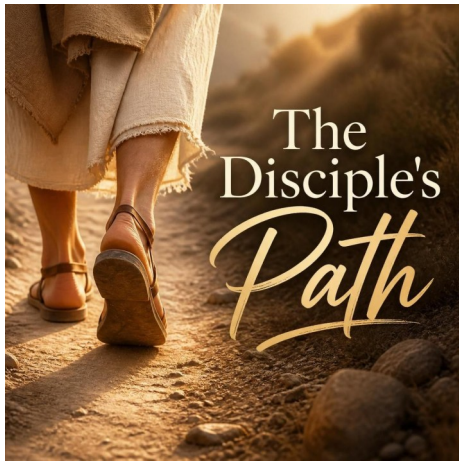
We have a wonderful and beautiful opportunity to have a "Sunset in the Sunflowers" service on Sunday, September 27th at 6:30pm. The service will take place at Beaver Dam Farm on 212 Wheatland Road. We will have lots of great music and a devotion by Pastor Danny. Of course, there is no fee for this event.

Psalm 145:2 ***"Every day I will praise You and extol your Name forever and forever."***

For His Glory

Cindie

The Disciple's Path



Discipleship becomes even more meaningful when we connect it to the intentional practices that help us follow Jesus day by day. That's exactly why ***The Disciple's Path*** exists. Just as Jesus taught His disciples not only through relationship but also through rhythms like prayer (Luke 11:1), Scripture (Matt. 4:4), solitude (Mark 1:35), and service (John 13:14–15). This new discipleship class is designed to help everyday believers build these same spiritual habits into real life. Spiritual disciplines aren't about checking boxes; they're about creating space for God to shape us so we can walk with Him and walk with others more faithfully.

When Moses encouraged Joshua (Deut. 31:7–8) or when Paul urged Timothy to "train yourself for godliness" (1 Tim. 4:7), they were pointing to a discipleship that is both relational and intentional. We grow best when someone is walking beside us and when we're practicing the disciplines that anchor our hearts in Christ. ***The Disciple's Path*** will help you learn how to abide in Jesus (John 15:4) through prayer, Scripture meditation, worship, community, and everyday obedience because these practices strengthen the very relationships that make discipleship flourish.

And here's the beautiful part: spiritual disciplines don't just help us be disciples; they equip us to make disciples. When Philip sat with the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8, he guided him through Scripture because he himself was grounded in it. When Priscilla and Aquila helped Apollos understand the gospel more accurately (Acts 18:24–26), they were able to do so because they had cultivated a life shaped by truth. Disciple-making flows naturally from a life rooted in spiritual practices.

My prayer is that ***The Disciple's Path*** becomes a place where we can learn to follow Jesus more closely and help others do the same. As we grow in these disciplines together, may our relationships deepen, our faith strengthen, and our witness shine. May Mill Creek become a community where discipleship is lived out in everyday conversations, shared practices, and Christ-centered friendships that reflect His heart. Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in room M-1 on ***The Disciple's Path***!

Brad Hamilton

Minister of Discipleship and Outreach

First things first: Praise the Lord for all the students who were baptized last month! Those baptisms represent just a taste of the fruit that the Lord is producing in the lives of our youth. God is good and He is certainly doing an exciting work at Mill Creek!

Our new year in the youth ministry is off to a fantastic start. It has been so good to be back in the youth room worshipping and studying God's word together. There are also a number of new faces showing up, and not just those of the new 6th grade students, but also of friends who are being invited to church by our students. I know that this is going to be a great year and I am pumped to see how God moves and works in the lives of our youth this school year.

Josh Witt
Minister of Youth

Upcoming Youth Events :

9/12- Youth For Life

9/20- Youth Volunteer Training

9/23- See You At The Pole

Parent Corner:

Parenting Above The Noise

If I had to describe the world of teenagers today in one word, it would probably be "noise." There's the noise of busyness with packed schedules full of school, sports, practices, church events, work, and activities. Then there's the digital noise of smartphones, social media, streaming, gaming, YouTube, endless notifications, news, and the pressure to always stay connected.

For today's teens, there is almost no quiet left. Most students carry a device that gives them constant access to entertainment, comparison, distraction, pressure, and affirmation twenty-four hours a day. Many go to sleep with their phones beside them and wake up checking notifications before they even get out of bed. And honestly, adults aren't that different.

While it is true that technology probably won't be going away any time soon, parents cannot afford to simply throw their hands up and normalize what should be concerning us. We assume constant hurry is just life. We assume exhaustion is normal. We assume every opportunity has to be pursued. We assume our kids need to keep up with everyone else. But deep down, most of us know something isn't right. So how do we help ourselves and our teenagers navigate this noisy world in healthier ways?

Rediscover the Biblical Practice of Sabbath: One of the most countercultural things a family can do today is rest. Not just collapse from exhaustion or scroll mindlessly on a couch but truly rest in God. Rest could mean protecting a slower evening each week, taking a technology-free Saturday morning, worshipping together, eating unhurried meals, spending time outside, or simply being fully present with one another.

Learn to Say "No" to Good Things: Part of healthy parenting is helping our children understand limits. That may mean saying no to another activity, protecting evenings at home, or deciding that your family needs margin more than another commitment.

Don't Confuse Downtime with Screen Time: True rest and restoration don't come from endless scrolling, gaming, or consuming content. Restoration usually happens through things that reconnect us to God, ourselves, and other people: conversation, time outside, reading, worship, laughter, exercise, meaningful relationships, sleep, silence, and prayer.

Create Healthy Boundaries Around Technology: Technology itself isn't the enemy. But unhealthy technology habits can absolutely shape a family in unhealthy ways. One of the most powerful things we, as parents, can do is model healthy digital habits ourselves. Our kids notice when we are physically present but emotionally unavailable because we're glued to our screens.

Healthy boundaries may include things like no phones at the dinner table, charging devices outside bedrooms overnight, screen-free family times, and social media limits. As parents, we need to model restraint ourselves. This isn't about fear. It's about formation. Every habit is shaping someone in some way.

*Adapted from a youthministry360.com's ministry to parents blog written by Chris Sasser



From the Deacons' Desk

As September begins and kids and staff are going back to school, we are reminded of new beginnings. Whether people are starting new grades, new schools, new jobs, or something similar, we know that God is a God of new beginnings! How great is that! As one season changes to another, we can also trust God to bring change, growth, and fresh purposes for our lives. Sometimes we hold on to worries from mistakes, disappointments, missed opportunities, or struggles.

God reminds us:

Isaiah 43:18 ***"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."***

No matter what you are going through, God is not finished with you! What ended does not mean your story is over. Just because you are on what seems like a poorly timed detour, a dead-end road, or are seemingly headed down a road of despair, God can make a way for you.

Isaiah 43:19 ***"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."***

God reminds us that when we commit our lives to Him, we are made new and are under His protection and guidance.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."***

As we enter September, let's release the past, renew our faith, and move forward with Christ. Trust God as you enter this new season in life and believe that He is preparing something greater.

Prayer:

"Dear Lord, thank you for new beginnings as they remind us of the new beginning we have when we commit our lives to serving You. We put our faith and trust in You even when we don't see what You are doing. Give us the strength each day to share You with those You bring across our path. Let us watch for all the ways You are working in our lives. In Jesus holy and precious name we pray, Amen."

Curtis Akers
Deacon



Dear Mill Creek Baptist Church Congregation,

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers during my surgery and hospital stay while in Italy. God was holding my hand through it all and knowing you all were praying for me and my family brought a lot of comfort and peace!

I finished my rehab at Friendship South and have returned home. I'm doing well and so thankful to be home while continuing with PT.

I've always felt a part of Mill Creek Baptist and hope to visit with you soon!

Love,
Amanda Baxter
(Lara Lee Strickler's aunt)



Daytime Mission Group

September 1st at 10:00am

In the Fellowship Hall

Jesus said... ***"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me."***

Matthew 25:40

Let's join together and learn how we can help children in crisis. Ray Moore from CarePortal will tell us how we can connect with families in need. See page 7 for more information on CarePortal.

A potluck lunch will follow. Contact Judy Deel for more information. (540.759.1914)

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

The meeting will feature reports from the Finance and Nominating Committees. All members are encouraged to be in attendance. All children & youth activities will take place as scheduled.

Proposed 2026-27 Budget

If you would like a copy of the proposed 2026-27 budget prior to the business meeting on September 16, copies will be available in the rack beside the church office beginning September 6. You may also request a copy by emailing the church office at office@millcreekbc.com.

The Finance Committee will host a Budget Q&A for anyone that has questions on September 13 at 10:45am in room M-1.

Welcome New Members



**Welcome
To our Church**

Kile & Moriah Chapman join by transfer of letter. Their address is 250 Ridgley Ln, Fincastle, 24090.

Todd Wampler joins by transfer of letter. Todd's address is 4634 Blue Ridge Tnpk, Fincastle, 24090.

Mackenzie Nichols joins by profession of faith and baptism. Mackenzie's address is 142 Piper Glenn, Blue Ridge, 24064.

Mark Shelton II joins by profession of faith and baptism. Mark's address is 5577 Breckinridge Mill Rd, Fincastle, 24090.

Our church family rejoices in their decisions.

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

Donations are needed! (No clothing please!)
If you have treasures to donate, please contact Judy Deel (540-759-1914) or Laura Epperly (540-520-5768).

DR Mission Team Update

Thanks so much to everyone who participated and supported the Dominican Republic Mission Team's annual Golf tournament at Brookside Pat 3. Our event was very successful and everyone had a great time. We appreciate the love and support from all of you.

The children in the Dominican Republic will begin their school year, September 1st with 98 children. The first of three, \$8,000 donations has been wired to the school in order for them to operate the 2026 -2027 school year.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of these folks in the Dominican Republic.

Rugging September 24th 6:30pm Brugh's Mill Store



Join us on the porch for crocheting, chatting and ice cream eating! Contact Judy Deel for more information (540.759.1914)

Congratulations to Jessi & Cory Fisher on the birth of their baby boy, Hudson Oliver, on August 10. Hudson weighed 7lbs. 11oz. and was 21 inches long. Proud big brother is Samuel. Proud grandparents are Steve & Sandra Kidd.





Women's Bible Study

"James: Mercy Triumphs" by Beth Moore

Have you ever asked yourself "What good is your faith?" In this crazy and chaotic world, sometimes we can surely wonder. Please join us on Tuesdays **beginning September 8 for 8 weeks** as we study the Book of James. In this study, James will force us to face the implications of our faith. He will inspire us to put our faith into action in practical ways as we get to know him. Through this study we will explore concepts of joy, hardship, faith, wisdom, single-mindedness, the tongue, humility, prayer and more.

A morning session will begin at **9:30am in the Fellowship House** and will be led by Leigh Hamilton and Teresa Garrett. An evening session will begin at **6:00pm in Randy Daniels Room** and will be led by Susan Plenge. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Leigh Hamilton (540-204-6013), Teresa Garrett (540-797-4037) or Susan Plenge (540-588-4330).



**Did you know that YOU can
make a positive impact in a
child's life?**

Here and Now!

For 11 years, an organization named CarePortal has drawn churches and other organizations to be involved in the lives of children whose families are struggling. Here in our own community, there is a network connecting children to those who can meet the family's need. The need may be a crib for a new mom or bunk beds for siblings who share the same bedroom or a car seat or rent assistance or a small home repair. Providing these simple needs can result in critical, immediate relief for a family and restore them to a strong and healthy state. Come and learn about the possibilities for supporting vulnerable children and families in crisis. YOU can make a difference! (Learn more at CarePortal.org)

Discussion of CarePortal Opportunities

Led by Ray Moore

September 1

10 AM

Fellowship Hall of the Church



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Lewis Sifford in his passing.

Alaska Mission Trip Report

Eight team members (Justin, Nikki, Cade, and Carson Cook, Dawn Montgomery, Tommy Moore, Melissa Peery, Todd Wampler) flew to Alaska on Saturday, July 11 to serve alongside Alaska Missions. We joined the other 110 volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus on the beaches of North and South Beach and Kasilof Beach. Volunteers came from all over, Florida, Hawaii, Texas, Kentucky, Alabama, and Virginia. The Mill Creek team's day started between 4—4:30 am to have breakfast ready for 110 volunteers housed in two locations. Breakfast for 60 volunteers was ready by 6:30 am for delivery. "Delivery Driver" Tommy, Cade and Carson delivered the hot breakfast a few miles down the road. "Egg Master" Justin, cooked approximately 200 eggs each day. "Bacon, Biscuit and Sausage Master" Todd managed the commercial oven, and Nikki, Melissa and Dawn kept the kitchen running smoothly, and began preparing the desserts and starting the dinner menu. The longest day was orientation day when we prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner for a total of 330 meals. The menu this day included the full breakfast, and 130 hamburgers delivered by noon, followed by dinner at 6pm, which happened to be taco salad...and yes, we fried 100 taco shells for the salad bowls! Each day, the teams left with a smile on their faces and returned with smiles. We were greeted with chatter, excitement and joy in their hearts. This year, it rained, rained and rained, the volunteers served on the beaches each day with gladness and our team made sure a hot meal was ready for them. After a full day of preparing meals, a team member led a daily devotion. The themes included: what path are you taking, being fishers of men, the Bible being the resource for daily life, the heart, creation, what anxiety and anxiousness you are experiencing, and how the Bible tells us to not worry like the animals, and what's your personal impact on others.

Mission trips are exhausting, exciting and restorative. Thank you for supporting us, as we continue to make an impact in the 49th state. ***"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function."*** Romans 12:4



Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions Week of Prayer—September 13-20

The annual offering for Virginia missions honors Alma Hunt (1909–2008), a native Virginian and global missions leader known for her unwavering commitment to Christ and passionate advocacy for worldwide ministry. Since 1976, this offering has been a joint ministry of HerMission (WMUV) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). It provides essential funding for HerMission initiatives, BGAV special ministries, community outreach projects, and mission efforts not supported through regular church giving. The offering's annual goal and fund distribution are prayerfully determined by the HerMission Executive Director/Treasurer and the BGAV Executive Director, and approved by their respective boards. Your generous gift—joined with those of fellow Virginia Baptists—directly supports many life-changing ministries across the Commonwealth and beyond. Join us in prayer and giving as we witness Hope Rising—through lives transformed daily by the hope and love of Christ. Offering envelopes and prayer guides will be available on Sunday, September 13. **Our church offering goal is \$5,500.00.** Please use the special offering envelopes provided or clearly designate on your regular offering envelope that you are giving to Alma Hunt for Virginia Missions. You may also give online and choose the Alma Hunt fund.



More Than Soccer: God at Work Through Brazilian Soccer Camp



At this year's Brazilian Soccer Camp, soccer became more than a game. Sponsored by HerMission, the three-day camp brought children and teenagers from across the Roanoke Valley together to build their skills, form new friendships, and hear the hope of the Gospel. Brazilian soccer players and local volunteers led morning sessions for younger players and evening futsal sessions for teenagers, but some of the most meaningful moments happened beyond the drills and games.

One morning, a mother arrived with a young boy in foster care who was afraid to leave the car and join the other children. As he was given time to decide, a young Brazilian-American camper noticed him and offered some encouragement. The boy joined the group, and what began with uncertainty turned into a wonderful week on the field.



Later, organizers learned there was more to the story. When the Brazilian-American boy first came to the United States, he did not speak English, but other children befriended him and helped him feel welcome. When he saw someone else who needed that same encouragement, he chose to extend the kindness that had once been shown to him.

Another unexpected connection happened during an evening futsal clinic at the YMCA in Daleville. Steve Dalton, HerMission Men and Boys Mission Strategist, noticed several teenagers playing basketball before the clinic and invited them to join. Two accepted and shared that they played soccer for a local high school. Before leaving, they shared with Dalton that they grew up in Afghanistan, and both gladly accepted a Gideon New Testament when offered one.



Stories like these unfolded throughout the camp as relationships formed and opportunities to share Christ emerged naturally. Many participants responded to the Gospel, accepting and proclaiming Jesus as Lord of their lives.

The camp was a true community effort, made possible by the many people who generously gave their time, resources, and financial support. We are especially grateful for the partnership of Melrose Baptist Church, Mill Creek Baptist Church, and Bonsack Baptist Church, who helped provide meals. Their willingness to serve alongside HerMission helped make our Brazilian Soccer Camp a meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Sometimes ministry begins with something as simple as an invitation to step onto the field. This week, God used those invitations to open doors for friendship, belonging, and the Gospel.

(Article copied from HerMission Highlights)



Operation Christmas Child September News



Fall is here, and OCC collection week is fast approaching! Thank you to all who have contributed this year so far. August collections were for school supplies and there are still some good deals out there. **For September we will be collecting clothes, shoes, socks and underwear.** Actually, any item suitable for the shoeboxes will be greatly appreciated! Each year, I hear so many stories from those who have received a shoebox. Something so simple, makes such an impact on them. On average, 7 people hear the gospel for each shoebox received! Amazing! Thank you for all of your donations and for spreading the Good News throughout the world!

In Christ,
Donna Lucas



Mission Meal

Sunday, September 20

Hosted by the SWVA Mission Team

**Menu: "Mill-Fil-A" chicken sandwiches,
baked beans, potato chips & dessert**

Eat in or take out

Proceeds will benefit
the 2027 SWVA
mission trip including
The Carpenter's
Helpers projects.



Save the date!

2027 SW Virginia Mission Trip

February 28th – March 4th



The Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers started their fall program with the first night having 62 children. Everyone was so excited to be back at church after a short summer break.

The children from our Child Care that participate in our Wednesday night activities were picked up at 5:30pm, watched a movie, ate some popcorn and were ready for supper time at 6pm. Menu of course was Weenie Wednesday just like always. Our cooks prepared hot dogs till they ran out of their ears along with mac and cheese, applesauce, chips and water. As soon as supper was finished, it was mega stuffed Oreos for dessert! After supper time, it was on to activities.

Each of our children received a tote bag that was generously donated by Gene West Sales. The children are encouraged to bring their Bibles each Wednesday night and this bag helps them do just that! As we are teaching them God's Word, we are also helping them learn how to find things in their Bibles. Through generous donations to our Children's Ministry, we are able to provide a Bible to any child who does not have one.

Fun fact: If you see our children's tote bags and the adult leaders' shirts, the logo was designed by Kelly Olson.

This year, our children will be exploring the Bible from beginning to end. So on our first night, you could find us in Genesis, studying about the creation of the world and we wrapped up the end of August with Adam and Eve. During craft time, the children made crafts to go with our Bible stories and got to take home some treasures. During missions time, we were learning what a missionary is, what they do and ways they share about God.

Our Children's Ministry is always looking for volunteers that can just be extra hands. If you are interested in being a volunteer on Wednesday nights to provide extra hands, it does not require that you lead anything, your role would be just to help assist the children going from station to station. You are guaranteed to be blessed by our little people because they are amazing.

If you are interested or need more information contact Peggy Arbogast at 540.520.0107.



September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am Worship by the River, River Baptism & Church Picnic @ Limestone Park	31	1 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Greenwood Restaurant 10:00am Daytime Mission Group in Fellowship Hall	2 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	3	4	5
6 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	7 Church Office Closed Labor Day	8 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	9 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	10	11	12 8:30am Youth Leaving the Church for "Youth for Life" Event 9:00am - 1:00pm Blood Drive @ Mill Creek
13 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Budget Q&A in Room M-1 11:00am Worship	14 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions 6:00pm BWNG Potluck in Fellowship Hall	15 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions Newsletter Articles Due 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	16 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions 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 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	17 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions	18 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions	19 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions
20 Alma Hunt Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Mission Luncheon for SWVA Mission Team 11:00am Worship 12:00pm 12:00pm Mission Luncheon for SWVA Mission Team, Deacons Meeting, Youth Volunteer Training	21	22 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	23 See You at the Pole (check with your school for time) 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	24 10:00am Prayer Blanket Ministry Team 6:30pm Prayer Blanket Ministry Team 6:30pm Rugging at Brugh's Mill	25	26
27 Mill Creek Peanut Butter 400 Deadline 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:30pm Sunset in the Sunflowers Service @ Beaver Dam Farm Sunflowers	28	29 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	30 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	1	2	3

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
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

Sunset in the Sunflowers Service
Sunday, September 27
6:30pm
BEAVER DAM FARM SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL
212 WHEATLAND RD, BUCHANAN

Join us for an evening of music and a devotion by Pastor Danny. There is no charge for this service. Bring a chair or a blanket!

Blood Drive
Saturday, September 12
9:00am-1:00pm

Mill Creek Baptist Fellowship Hall

On Saturday September 12th, Mill Creek will host another Red Cross Blood Drive in our fellowship hall from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This will be our last blood drive for this year so hope to see many of you there. Please signup at the Red Cross website RedCrossBlood.org. Thank you again to all who help support this outreach mission.