

The Dove

January 2026 Volume 51, Issue 1



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

God Knows You - How Well do You Know Him?

What a wonderful season of Advent we just experienced! I want to say a very special "Thank you!" to everyone who helped make our sanctuary so beautiful again this Christmas from our decorating committee to everyone who participated in the Hanging of the Green service. The sanctuary was absolutely stunning! Our handbell choir along with the puppet drama presentation reminded us of what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. Our adult choir, musicians, and children's Whole-Notes choir led us in worship with their Christmas musical presentation, "Hope in a Manger," that told us of the hope we have in Jesus and eternity. As one attendee commented to me, "That music presentation was uplifting and joyful and the food and fellowship afterward was wonderful." So a special thank you goes out to our Hospitality Team as well. And didn't our children do a beautiful job of leading us with their offering of worship in playing bells and chimes and singing? Thanks also to everyone who participated in the Advent readings and candle lighting each Sunday! Each one of you who helped make all of these possible played a significant role in helping this Advent season feel very special. It was a wonderful visual reminder of how each part of the body works to complete and help make the body function.

Now, here we are heading into 2026 with all the opportunities that it holds in store for us. We can't see or imagine them all but God can! Scripture reminds us that **God is Omniscient**. Omniscience is defined as God having complete and total knowledge of all things for all time. For God to be sovereign over His creation of all things, whether visible or invisible, He has to be all-knowing. His Omniscience is not restricted to any one person in the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit are all by nature Omniscient. John wrote that **God knows everything** in 1 John 3:20. Matthew reminds us that **God knows the smallest details of our lives** as well as everything around us. He mentions that God knows when a sparrow falls or when we lose a single hair in Matthew 10:29-30. According to Isaiah 46:9-10 **God knows everything to the very end of history**. And Psalm 139:4 tells us, *"Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether."*

There is nothing too difficult or challenging for an Omniscient God, and it is on the basis of our faith in Him that we can rest secure in Him. He has known us even before creation and where we would appear in the course of time, and with whom we would interact. He even knew our sin in all its ugliness and wickedness, yet, in love, He set His seal upon us and drew us to that love in Jesus Christ according to Ephesians 1:3-6.

That's how well God knows you. How well do you know Him? At the beginning of each year, I try to encourage people to get to know God better and one way we get to know Him better is through His love letter to us, His Holy Word, the Bible. In 2024, Debbie used "The Bible Recap" with Tara-Leigh Cobble as her quiet time Bible reading plan for that year. I was impressed by the things I overheard, and I decided to give it a try for my personal quiet time Bible reading in 2025. I enjoyed it so much that I am planning on using it again for this year and highly recommend it if you are looking for an option for yourself. One thing Debbie did this past year was to listen to the Bible being read as she read along with it. It helps when you hit "some of those names" that you often bypass because of their difficulty.

I know there are a lot of wonderful podcasts to listen to and Christian authors to read and I would encourage you to use those as an addition to your daily Bible reading but not in place of it. There are a variety of Bible reading plans available, some are a read through the Bible in a year while others may take a slower approach and read through the Old or New Testament in a year. Perhaps you would like to do an in-depth study of a particular book or books of the Bible. Whatever you choose, remember that perfection is not necessary, but spending time getting to know your Creator who is Omniscient is. A daily quiet time will help prepare, guide and sustain you as you navigate the things that are unknown and unseen to you, but not to Him, in 2026.

I hope you have a very Happy New Year!

Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30 Service Nursery Workers

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

9:45 Sunday School Nursery

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

11:00 Service Nursery Workers

January 4 Melina Marshall & Ashleigh Kritzberger
 January 11 Jess Hayden & Laurel Bowser
 January 18 Patricia Lightner & Anna Clark
 January 25 Lara Lee Strickler & Sue Lee

8:30/11:00 Service Toddlers Workers

January 4 Kim Lawrence/Danielle Tolley
 January 11 Jennifer Ferguson/Mary Bowser
 January 18 Melissa Peery/Jess Hayden
 January 25 Marybeth Rush/Andy Shotwell

8:30/11:00 Service Preschool Workers

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

8:30 Greeters

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

11:00 Greeters

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

8:30/11:00 Usher

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

Our Kingdom Giving

	SS	8:30am Worship	11:00am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
November 30	216	159	166	\$13,671.00	\$1,080.00
December 7	255	228	173	\$21,268.00	\$3,165.00
December 14	251	240	193	\$12,936.00	\$2,077.00
December 21	228	231	176	\$15,675.00	\$990.00
December 28	187	146	135	\$19,147.00	\$3,615.00

Lottie Moon Offering Total as of 12/28/25: \$10,134.50

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

Happy January Birthday!

- 1 Richard Gregory
Rachel Epperly Hall
- 2 Lane Caldwell
Judy Prease
- 4 Leigh Hamilton
- 6 Helen Hodges
Brad Hamilton
Etta King
- 7 Pam Morris
Marty Martin
- 8 Ellison Simmons
- 9 Wayne Wertz
- 10 Haley Austin
Melissa Barnard
Judah Witt
- 11 JoAnne Humphries
- 13 Steve Hubbard
Alex Strickler
Abby Elkins
Mike Clement
Victoria Chocklett
- 14 Elsie Roberts
Cathy Downs
- 15 Donna Lucas
Logan Blair
Erik Swartzel
- 16 Zach States
Luke Winand
Cherie Neighbors
David Robertson
- 17 Danny Quirin
Mary Bowser
Chris Rago
Morgan Thorne
- 19 Dan Bowser
Katie Imron
- 20 Colin Cook
Noah States
- 21 Gino Arbogast
Emerson Kidd
Carol Theimer
- 22 Scott Boone
- 23 Jacob Simmons
- 24 Cindy Gibson
Justin Roberts
- 25 Loretta Smith
- 26 Julia Ferguson
Jenny O'Bryant
- 27 Skeets Ulrich
- 28 Ruth Fix
- 29 Justin Barnard
Gail Bowyer
- 30 Lyle Kritzberger
Ripley Hayden
- 31 Jessica Mack
Ridge Peyton

MUSIC NOTES.....



Christmas was so special at MCBC! We had Advent, beautiful music by all ages from preschool to adult, adult and kids handbells, food, and especially celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our sanctuary was so beautifully decorated to honor our King! Thanks to every single person who helped make Christmas such a special time at Mill Creek!

We will be starting **Half-notes preschool choir (ages 3-Kindergarten)** again on Wednesday, January 7th at 5:30pm in the Joyful Servants classroom beside the church office. Our **Whole-notes choir (grades 1-5)** will begin on January 7th at 5:30pm in the choir room. We will be presenting a musical in the spring so if your child is interested in participating, please plan to have your kids here to begin practice. New members are always welcome!

Adult choir will begin on Wednesday, January 7th at 7:35pm in the sanctuary. We welcome anyone who would like to sing with us. We really are a family who loves to sing and worship God together. We will also be starting Easter music soon. (Crazy, I know!)

We will be having our annual Memorial Service on Sunday, January 4th at both worship services to remember our members who went to be with the Lord in 2025. This is always such a special way to honor those whom we miss very much.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

Happy New Year! God bestowed many blessings on Mill Creek in 2025 and I can't wait to see what 2026 brings!

Cindie

Embracing The New Frontier Of Online Ministry

Throughout history, new technologies have changed how we connect and communicate. When radio first appeared in the 1920s, families gathered around it for news and entertainment, even as some worried it might reduce face-to-face interactions. In the 1950s, television became popular, shifting daily routines and encouraging people to watch programs together, though concerns about its influence also grew. The World Wide Web in the 1990s made information and connections available like never before, creating excitement, but also raising questions about privacy and reliability. With the rise of social media, people began sharing their lives online, forming digital communities while navigating issues related to genuine human connections. Today, streaming content allows us to watch shows and movies whenever we want, changing how we consume media. Each new technology brings both excitement and uncertainty, reminding us to adapt while keeping our connections strong.

Historically, churches have missed the mark on staying up to date on the digital frontier. Why does this matter? A 2024 research publication from Digital Church found that 81% of churchgoers say they consult a church's website before visiting. Online ministry is the new front door of the church. It must be welcoming, appealing, and user-friendly. Online ministry goes beyond just our website to also include our live streaming and social media. In today's rapidly changing world, online ministry is not just beneficial, but essential. By embracing the digital frontier, churches can foster a more welcoming, engaging, and intentional environment that meets the needs of both current and future generations. Mill Creek will embrace this new frontier, making the necessary updates and changes to our digital platforms, and ensuring the Gospel message will reach further and farther in the days ahead.

Brad Hamilton
Minister of Discipleship and Outreach

Happy New Year! While January is a natural time of the year to start over, or set new goals...this month, our youth ministry is going to KEEP IT UP! The fall months saw some incredible growth in our youth group, and we don't plan to slow down any time soon. The youth room has been an exciting place to be on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights and I am looking forward to seeing what God continues to do in and through our group in the months to come.



Speaking of good things to come, over 30 students and adults will be heading to Ridgecrest Conference Center for The Edge Conference this month (January 17-19). Talk about pouring gas on a fire! The Edge has always been an incredible weekend and I know that our group will return from the weekend even closer to each other, and more on fire for the Lord. Please be in prayer for our group. Pray for safe travels, good weather, and that God would move and work in the lives of every student and adult going to The Edge.

Josh Witt
Minister of Youth

Upcoming Events:

1/7- Wednesday Nights Resume
1/17-19- The Edge Conference @ Ridgecrest



Youth Culture Corner:

Reset, Not Reinvent

For so many teenagers now, there's a constant message of reinvention:

Be better. Be stronger. Be more successful. Be more confident. Be more popular.

Social media feeds are filled with highlight reels and "new year, new me" expectations that can leave students feeling behind before the year even begins.

But here's the good news that parents need to make sure their students hear in this New Year:

God isn't asking them to reinvent themselves—He's inviting them to reset their focus.

A reset doesn't mean becoming someone else. It means remembering who you already are. Our teens don't need a new identity—they already have one in Christ. They don't need to earn God's love or approval in 2026. They start this year fully known, fully loved, and fully welcomed by Him.

In a culture that measures worth by likes, streaks, followers, and achievements, I pray that our homes and our youth ministry are places where students are reminded:

- **You are more than your mistakes.**
- **You are not behind.**
- **You don't have to have everything figured out.**
- **God is not done with you.**

As we kick off a new year, let our prayer be that our students would learn to pause, breathe, and realign their hearts with what matters most. Not perfection. Not performance. Just a growing relationship with Jesus and a community that walks alongside them.

From the Deacons' Desk

January 1st - a new year, a new start, a place to begin again. Why do we wait for a new year to make resolutions like losing weight, eating better, saving money, being a better person etc.? Has anyone ever kept up resolutions they have made? I know I haven't. By the end of the month its just a passing thought or forgotten completely. If I really wanted to make a difference in my life what would my resolution be? I asked God His thoughts on the matter and He didn't hesitate to let me know what they were.

And now Israel (insert your name) what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and soul and to observe the LORD'S commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.

If we fear the LORD and walk in his way, not turning to the right or to the left, if we love him with all we are THAT'S LIFE CHANGING for our own good. A resolution we all need to think about making.

LORD, through the power of the Holy Spirit let our hearts and souls hear your words. May we walk in your way every day loving and serving you in all we do, standing firm on your Word. Amen

Debbie Rago
Deacon



Kathryn Simpson

Kathryn Peery Simpson passed away on December 4th at the age of 78 following a lengthy illness. Kathryn was born in Eagle Rock, the youngest of nine to Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Peery, Sr. Kathryn began attending Mill Creek before she and Richard were married, and later united with our fellowship. She enjoyed the various Sunday School classes she and Richard attended, as well as the Baptist Young Women's Mission Group that she joined. She faithfully volunteered to work with children in Vacation Bible School in the summers and served on the Christmas Evogram Committee. She found special joy in working in the nursery and holding babies. Kathryn loved to sing alto in the church choir and was part of a singing group called "Vessels of Praise" along with Mike and Sue Lee, Price and Sissy Simpson and others. Kathryn is survived by her husband of 59 years, Richard Simpson; daughter, Melissa Walters; son, Michael Simpson; sister-in-law, Janice Wright; nephew, Randall Wright (Lisa); niece, Cindy Metheny (Scott); and numerous other nieces and nephews. A celebration of Kathryn's life was held on Saturday, December 13, in the sanctuary of our church. The family requests that memorials be made to the church building fund or the Botetourt Resource Center in her honor.

Welcome New Members

Jake Bryant joins by profession of faith and baptism. His address is 171 Broad Street, Daleville, 24083. Our church family rejoices in his decision.



Congratulations to Morgan & Jonathan Thorne on the birth of their baby boy, Samuel Leland, on December 5. Samuel weighed 5.12 pounds and was 18.75 inches long.

January Food Collection for Backpack Ministry

During the month of January, we will be collecting food items and funds for our Backpack Ministry. For 12 years, Mill Creek has provided food for students at Buchanan Elementary who may need help with meals over the weekend. Currently, 25 students are being served. The food items that these students receive are packed at our church and are delivered to the school in brown paper grocery bags each week that school is in session. Most of the shopping for food items is done at Sam's and Walmart. Betsy and Dwight Fix are the leaders of this ministry.

You can support this ministry to children in the following ways:

- Purchasing gift cards to Sam's or Walmart (give directly to Betsy or Dwight Fix)
- Making a financial contribution to our church through online giving or through our regular offering (designate for the Backpack Ministry)
- Shopping for items that are listed below (place your food items in the display area at the bottom of the ramp)

Food given through the Backpack Ministry:

Mac and cheese (boxed)

Canned tuna/chicken

Soup

Canned pasta (Ravioli/Spaghetti/ Lasagna)

Ramen noodles

Pop tarts

Oatmeal pouches (instant)

Canned Beans and franks

Small boxes raisins

Canned beans

Pudding cups

Jello cups

Fruit cups

Applesauce (cups or squeeze packets)

Nabs

Chewy bars

Rice Krispy treats

Chips (individual bags)

Cookies (individual bags)

New Discoveries Class

Are you new to Mill Creek? Are you curious about who we are, where we've been, what we believe and how you can plug in and use the gifts God has given you? Then you will want to be a part of the **New Discoveries Class**. We will meet **January 18 & 25 and February 1 & 8 at 9:45am**. The class will meet in Room U-2 (History Room at the end of the church office hallway). This is a great opportunity for new members or anyone interested in learning more about us. Contact Judy Deel (540-759-1914) or the church office (540-992-3474) if you are interested.



Memorial Service Sunday, January 4

Our annual Memorial Service will be Sunday, January 4, during each worship service. We will have a time of remembrance for members of our church who have passed away during 2025. Those being remembered will be: Susan Ditzler, Johnny Morris, John Shotwell, Kathryn Simpson, Gloria Strickler, and Bill Wagner.



Prayer Blanket News

For the month of January, please contact Sharon Ernest at 540-874-5074 or sheshe7457@gmail.com with any questions or issues regarding prayer blankets. Josephine Powell will be out of town. Don't forget to take a peek at the newly updated prayer blanket space. Blankets are now stored randomly in ALL cabinets. Instructions are posted for blanket checkout!

Happy New Year from the Prayer Blanket Ministry Team!

Philly Christmas Trip 2025



On Friday, December 5 at 900ish AM (supposed to leave at 630, but it snowed), eight from Mill Creek left the church parking lot bound for Philadelphia and the Acts of the Apostles Church and Women's Shelter with a busload of presents and clothes for the approximately 100 children and 50 mothers there. Those aboard were Dawn Montgomery, Janet and Bubby Entsminger, Sue and Jerry Sweet, Melissa Peery, Mike Clements and Tom Moore. We had made contact with Angela Leedy, the director of the shelter (which is located several blocks north of Trinity Baptist Church). On Saturday morning, we drove into Philly and 100+ presents were unloaded along with many wrapped "toilet paper holders" filled with candy and many clothes, hats, coats and shoes for the children and women. While we were there, Santa read the real Christmas story and he and his elves distributed gifts to about 40 families. The children ranged in age from a few weeks to 12 years old. Each child got to sit on Santa's lap and received an age appropriate gift along



with candy and a small toy from Elf Bubby. The mothers "shopped" (for free) at the many tables of clothes and were so appreciative to receive gently used and new items that had been donated. (A big thank you goes out to Josephine and Solomon's Mission for their many donations). Presents and clothes that were not distributed were left with the director of the shelter. We were warmly greeted and thanked by all who conveyed their appreciation to those who sent presents! Angela and the pastor of the church hope to come to our church again and speak about the work at the women's shelter in Philly!

Thank you for your generosity in supplying presents and clothing for children who probably would not have a present to open on Christmas morning if not for your care and concern. In fact, a number of children were saving their gift for Christmas morning. May God bless you and you and you and you.....!

Another Successful Christmas Bazaar

On the morning of December 6, snow covered the ground and frozen fog hung in the air, but that did not stop our bazaar crowd! Throughout the morning, there were many joyous sounds and happy faces in the fellowship hall. Santa was here and 25 families brought their children for photos. The children got to shop in Santa's Workshop to purchase surprise gifts for their families and friends. Bake Sale items delighted many and our White Elephant treasures were abundant! Our raffle baskets of goodies filled to overflowing generated a lot of interest. Breakfast and lunch were served to hungry shoppers and workers. Our annual bazaar was a huge success due to those of you who bought, cooked, crafted, donated, and just visited! The receipts are **approximately \$5700** and **half of this amount will be donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions**. The remaining half will be divided among three of our local ministries – **The Carpenter's Helpers, the Backpack Ministry and the Prayer Blanket Ministry**. Many thanks go to all of you for your support!



Self-guided



PRAYER EXPERIENCE

Join us for a Self-guided Prayer Experience to kick off the New Year! This unique event will take place in the Fellowship Hall and will feature prayer stations inspired by the Beatitudes from Matthew 5.

Choose a day and time that works best for you:

Sunday, January 11th, 5-8pm

Monday, January 12th, 8-11am and 3-6pm

Tuesday, January 13th, 8-11am and 3-6pm

Wednesday, January 14th, 12-3pm and 5-8pm

For more information, please contact Pastor Brad at brad@millcreekbc.com.

Southwest Virginia Partnership Mission Trip to Nickelsville March 1 – 5, 2026

It's time to start planning for the 2026 SW Virginia Partnership Mission Trip to Nickelsville. This mission trip is sponsored by the WMU of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association and is a cooperative effort of many churches in our area. Those who participate can choose to be involved in a number of ways--- **construction and home repair, BookNet visits to public schools, serving at the food pantry in Gate City, visiting a nursing home in Weber City, meal preparation, or assisting with the filling of ditty bags** for the BookNet teams. **Information will be shared on Sunday, January 4th following each of the worship services in Room U-2 (History Room).** The registration fee is \$125 per person and will be used for food, construction supplies, Bibles and ditty bag supplies. The cost of lodging at the Manor is \$15 per night per person. There are sites for campers available and the cost is \$15 per night per camper (regardless of the number of people staying in them). Lodging can also be found in and around Nickelsville. **An associational planning meeting will be Thursday, January 8 at 6:30pm at Mill Creek.** Contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914) for more information.

Daytime Mission Group January 6 at 10am

On January 6th, the Daytime Mission Group will learn about two of Mill Creek's busy ministries. Both the **Backpack Ministry** and the **Prayer Blanket Ministry** began in 2013 and have been going strong for 12 years! Come and learn about the blessings and the challenges that these ministries have experienced over the years. We will be collecting food items for the Backpack Ministry and those items can be brought to the meeting. See page 6 for the list. Everyone is welcome to come. A potluck lunch will follow the meeting. Contact Judy Deel for more information. (540.759.1914) If Botetourt Schools are closed or delayed, this group will not meet.

Ditty Bag Sunday February 1st

On February 1st, we will collect monetary donations for hygiene supplies that will be distributed to children during our 2026 SW Virginia Mission trip. The approximate **cost is \$7 per bag**. Please join in helping to provide these needed supplies to students in our own state.



Thank you so much for the beautiful blankets you made for our veterans. They are appreciated.

Cindy Taylor
Activity Director
Daleville Health



Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, January 7



5:45pm—6:20pm

In Room M-1

Everyone is invited to come and pray!



Mission Meal Sunday, January 18 Hosted by the SWVA Mission Team Menu: Baked Potato, Chili, Salad & Dessert

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

All proceeds will help support the SWVA mission trip in March.

Romania Mission Trip October 2026

It is time to begin planning for our mission trip to Romania! The dates for the trip are leaving on Friday, October 9 and returning on Sunday, October 18. We will have our first official planning meeting on Sunday, January 25, following the second hour of worship. Please contact Pastor Danny if you have any questions.

Prayer Request Changes

Beginning Sunday, January 4, the church office will no longer accept prayer request sheets from Sunday School classes. They will be for Sunday School class use only. If you would like for a prayer request to be sent out by email and to be on the printed prayer guide, please email your request to prayer@millcreekbc.com or call the church office at 540-992-3474.

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

Inclement Weather Policy

For Sunday services, decisions about canceling church are made by 7am. Cancellation notices will be emailed to the church email list, posted on Facebook and posted on WDBJ7. (If you would like to be added to the church email list, please send your request to office@millcreekbc.com.) During the weekdays, when Botetourt County Schools close early or are closed for the day, all church activities for that day are canceled. Delayed school openings do not affect church schedules.

"The Bondage Breaker"

Overcoming Negative Thoughts, Irrational Feelings, Habitual Sins
By Neil T. Anderson

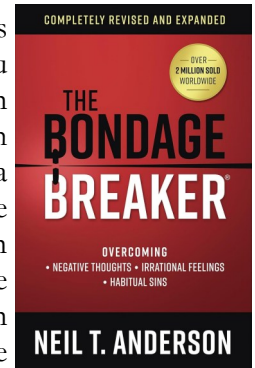
13 Week Winter Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, January 6, 2026

9:30am & 6:00pm

Facilitated by Brenda Fowler

"The Bondage Breaker" is designed to take you deeper into your own personal relationship with Christ Jesus. It leads a person away from the shadows and shackles in their lives, and towards the freedom that comes when they realize they have the right to be free, confront the power of Satan, and fight the temptation to do it their way. Learn to trade deception for grace and affirm your identity in Christ. This study is a follow-up to "Victory Over The Darkness" but it is not necessary to have participated in it. **For more information, look for a flyer at the bulletin locations or you may contact Brenda Fowler at 540-728-1904 or bsf1949@gmail.com.**



Due to Mill Creek's supporters (51 households) who shopped at Kroger between 8-31-25 and 11-30-25, we will receive a donation of \$198.81 from the Kroger Community Rewards program. This donation will go to our bus ministry.

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

Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers



Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers have been busy learning about the real meaning of Christmas during our Bible time. Each week we have talked about the birth of Jesus and how special the Christmas season is for us. We also made Advent Christmas Card Stockings for several shut ins for this Advent Christmas season in



hopes of sharing some Christmas joy. During Mission time you could find us learning about the International Missionary, Lottie Moon, and her life. Craft time was all about making gifts for our parents - the cutest snowmen you have every seen!

One Wednesday night it snowed, and church policy says, no school equals no Wednesday night activities. We missed making our gum drop Christmas trees that night, but no worries! We were given kits to take home to make them the following week! Fun times during this Christmas season.

As always, if you know of any children from Preschool to 5th grade, please be sure to invite them to join us for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers or if YOU are interested in serving in any capacity on Wednesday night, please contact Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107.

Child Care News



December started out with snow and very cold weather, which kept our Center closed for three days. Even so, it didn't keep us from enjoying our annual Preschoolers' Christmas Party! The children enjoyed wonderful Christmas snacks that were generously provided by our parents. A special visit from Santa was the highlight of the morning, as he passed out gifts to each child. While most of the children were excited to see Santa, a few preferred to admire him from a distance. We had a fantastic turnout with 56 children in attendance for our preschool party!



Our school-agers celebrated later that same afternoon after school. They enjoyed delicious snacks brought in by their parents and then opened gifts during their gift exchange. The children had a great time and spent the afternoon playing with and enjoying their new gifts. We had 45 school-agers attend their Christmas party.

As we begin a new year, we are thankful for our children, families, and staff who make our Center such a special place. Thanks also to Mill Creek Baptist Church for allowing our Center to be here in your building and being such a wonderful outreach to the community! We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2026!

Cherry and Debbie





January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Woodcutting @ Chip Lawrence's	2	3
4 8:30am Worship & Memorial Service 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am SWVA Mission Trip Informational Meeting 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship & Memorial Service 12:00pm SWVA Mission Trip Informational Meeting	5	6 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Greenwood Restaurant 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 10:00am Daytime Mission Group in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	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 6:30pm Associational Planning Meeting for SWVA Mission Trip @ Mill Creek	9	10
11 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:00pm - 8:00pm Self- guided Prayer Experience	12 8:00am - 11:00am Self- guided Prayer Experience 3:00pm - 6:00pm Self- guided Prayer Experience 6:00pm BWNG Potluck in Fellowship Hall	13 8:00am - 11:00am Self- guided Prayer Experience 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 3:00pm - 6:00pm Self- guided Prayer Experience 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	14 8:00am - 11:00am Self- guided Prayer Experience 5:00pm - 8:00pm Self- guided Prayer Experience 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	16	17 Youth at The Edge Conference
18 Youth at The Edge Conference 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School & New Discoveries Class 10:45am Mission Luncheon for SWVA Mission Team 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Deacons Meeting 12:00pm Mission Luncheon for SWVA Mission Team	19 Youth at The Edge Conference	20 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	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	23	24
25 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School & New Discoveries Class 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Romania Mission Trip Planning Meeting	26	27 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	28 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	29	30	31

Mill Creek Baptist Church
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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
Directory of Children's Ministry.....Peggy Arbogast
Administrative Assistant.....Sandra Kidd



Save the Date!
Sunday, February 8
Following the 11:00 service

**Dominican Republic
Mission Team**

Dessert Auction

**Watch for more
details coming soon!**



Save the Date!

VBS - July 12-16, 2026

As you are planning your 2026 vacations, please remember to keep this week open! It will be an amazing week exploring the nature of God! in a wild world!