

The Dove



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

Can You Be Trusted?

I have not always enjoyed having conversations with people about Jesus. I was worried about what they would think. I was worried they would ask questions I couldn't answer. I was worried about all kinds of things... except sharing Jesus with them. As a result, I didn't even invite them to church. If you can't identify with what I am talking about you may as well just skip the rest of this article and turn to page 2 now. **Sharing Jesus can be frightening for a lot of people especially in today's world! But it doesn't have to be.** There are some very comfortable ways in which we can share Jesus with others in the post-Christian world we are living in.

I remember being in a class in seminary talking about sharing Jesus with those whom we were closest to—our family, our friends, and our neighbors. The statement was made that family knows us too well and will not listen and most people don't even know their neighbors. The professor asked, "Do you know what two modern conveniences have made it most difficult to know our neighbors?" A variety of suggestions were made but he finally said, "The automatic garage door opener and the back porch." It used to be that families would sit and play out in front of their homes and when a car pulled in the driveway next door, if they had a garage, someone had to get out to open the garage door. When they got out, they were greeted by their neighbor next door. It was the natural thing to do. Now we don't get out to open the garage door, we push the button, pull into the garage, and close the door behind us. And many people hang out on the back porch rather than the front porch. As a result, we find it difficult to engage and build relationships with our neighbors.

When we don't know what to say, we think that if we invite our family, friends, and neighbors to church, they will come and someone else can tell them about Jesus. But **we can't simply invite others to church hoping they will show up. We must be the church to someone before they will come to church.** So, what does that look like today? Here are a few things I would suggest you consider. We need to.....

- **build relationships with others with no strings attached.** Your family and friends do not want to be your project. They can smell a fake a mile away, just love them as Jesus loves them right where they are.
- **talk about life, not just about church.** Life has multiple layers and when Jesus influences every area of our life, which He should, we should connect with others in all areas and not just the "churchy" ones.
- **have genuine conversations and make less statements.** The easiest way to show someone that you truly care about them is to listen. People will trust you and be willing to listen to you when they know you care enough to listen to them.
- **be more joyful and less ornery.** There are too many cantankerous Christians in society today. Who would want to be a part of something like that? Joy is contagious. When you are filled with joy others take notice. Remember that joy is not dependent on outward circumstances but on how Jesus has changed your heart.
- **be available when possible.** People who come to Jesus in their adult years often do so because of some kind of difficult situation they have experienced. Your family, friends, and neighbors won't think about reaching out to a church when they are hurting, but they will reach out to someone who they know genuinely cares about them.
- **pray for your unchurched family and friends.** Ask God for opportunities to have normal everyday conversations in which you can show them the love of Jesus first-hand.

There are people all around us who need to experience Jesus. Often they are **longing for genuine relationships** in which they feel comfortable enough to ask questions without feeling looked down upon. They want **to know someone cares** about them no matter what, and that they will be there for them no matter what. If you are not sure about how to share Jesus with others, simply **allow Him to use you in the everyday relationships and areas of your life.** **People will become willing to consider Jesus when they trust Christians who are already a part of their life.** Can you be trusted?

Grace and Peace,
Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30 Service Nursery Workers

February 1 Debbie Rago & Nancy Epperly
 February 8 Debbie Rago & Lindsay Thompson
 February 15 Debbie Rago & Richelle Christian
 February 22 Debbie Rago & Clara Holland

9:45 Sunday School Nursery Workers

February 1 Rene & Ned Jeter
 February 8 Don Epperly & Annette Shaw
 February 15 Kayla Anhold & Rachel Witt
 February 22 Kelly & Erik Olson

11:00 Service Nursery Workers

February 1 Laurel Bowser & Hannah Rogers
 February 8 Victoria Chocklett & Kayla O'Bryant
 February 15 Kelly Denison & Jill Ferguson
 February 22 Lara Lee Strickler & Jenna Humphries

8:30/11:00 Service Toddler Workers

February 1 Kim Lawrence/Danielle Tolley
 February 8 Jennifer Ferguson/Mary Bowser
 February 15 Melissa Peery/Jess Hayden
 February 22 Marybeth Rush/Andy Shotwell

8:30/11:00 Service Preschool Workers

February 1 Chelsea King/Luke Winand
 February 8 Kayla O'Bryant/Melanie Thacker
 February 15 Cindy Holland/Rachel Witt
 February 22 Sharon Ernest/Nikki Cook

8:30 Service Greeters

February 1 Nancy Epperly, Pat Shotwell, Teresa Simmons, Mark Painter, Brian Stevens
 February 8 Judy Prease, Jimmy Brugh, Melissa Peery, John Plenge, Philip Christian
 February 15 Lesa Mabe, Sue Sweet, Pam Gibson, Jerry Sweet, Shawn Crist
 February 22 Debbie McAllister, Pat Shotwell, Carol & Robbie Theimer, Ronald Stevens

11:00 Service Greeters

February 1 Klayton Akers, Deacon Witt, Melissa Peery, Don Epperly, Hank Rogers
 February 8 Sandy & Wayne Myers, Kelly Denison, Bruce Lightner, Jonathan Simmons
 February 15 John Murphy, Brian Simpkins, Sidra White, Lewis Sifford, Adam Davis
 February 22 Donna Mack, Donnie Johnson, Ferguson Family, Harry & Curtis Akers, Bud Mack

8:30/11:00 Ushers

February 1 Mark Painter & Phillip Simmons/Melissa Peery & Klayton Akers
 February 8 Judy Prease & Jeff Gibson/Wayne & Sandy Myers
 February 15 Jerry & Sue Sweet/ John Murphy & Brian Simpkins
 February 22 Nancy Epperly & Pat Shotwell/Donna Mack & Donnie Johnson

Our Kingdom Giving

	SS	8:30am Worship	10:45am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
January 4	236	194	146	\$15,049.00	\$1,927.00
January 11	246	216	161	\$13,947.00	\$11,370.00
January 18	246	205	112	\$16,636.00	\$380.00
January 25		No SS or Worship Due to Weather			

Goal Exceeded! Lottie Moon Offering Total: \$11,750.25

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

Happy February

Birthday!

2 Dan Lucas
 Vickie Vines
 3 Ted McAllister
 Tracy Connor
 JJ Alderson
 5 Donna Abbott
 Debbie McAllister
 Sandy Myers
 6 Marcia Obenshain
 Ben Hayden
 Joe Huffman
 7 Eileen Davis
 Shannon Craighead
 Autumn Russell
 8 Shearry Hodges
 Ginni Morris
 Michael Phillips
 Ned Jeter II
 9 Anna Bowser Clark
 Jordyn Simmons
 13 Sue Sweet
 Vana McClanahan
 14 Herb Grisso
 15 Owen Jeter
 Susan Plenge
 Paul Hammond
 16 Bud Mack
 17 Wyatt Hubbard
 Matt Peyton
 John Murphy
 Kinsley Kreklow
 18 Carolyn Trainor
 Jennifer Ferguson
 Max Johnson
 Mary Parsons
 19 Dwight Fix
 Rene Jeter
 20 Madison Dooley
 21 Lindsay Thompson
 Jim Hamilton
 Ned Jeter
 Maggie Tolley
 23 Charlie Reid
 25 Fred King
 Amy Reid
 Larry Blevins
 Brandon Sell
 27 Jodie Rago
 28 Justin Cook
 Isaiah Goodrich





MUSIC NOTES.....

Our music ministry is in full swing as we begin the month of February. Our Adult choir is working on Easter music, our Whole-notes choir has begun work on a spring musical entitled "Mission Possible", and our Half-notes choir is having fun learning and singing songs. Both kids' choirs will be singing at church services in the next few months. Also, our adult handbell choir practice is underway and they will be playing in March.

Do you play an instrument? We would love to include more folks in our praise band to play and sing. I know it can be intimidating coming into a group that has already been playing together, but we really are nice. If you are interested in playing or singing, please contact Cindie at 540-314-6456.

During the month of February we often think about love. I am so grateful for the love and forgiveness that Jesus provides for us. Let's in turn love Him with all our hearts and souls and worship Him with our whole beings whether it be individually or corporately as the church.

Psalm 103: 11-13 "For as high as the heavens are above the earth , so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgression from us."

For His Glory

Cindie



"Inconceivable!"

In the 1987 fantasy comedy "The Princess Bride," the fictional character Inigo Montoya is known for his iconic line: "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means." Though meant to be humorous, the moment highlights a truth often overlooked in church ministry. When it comes to discipleship, ask ten people what a disciple is and you'll likely hear ten different answers.

Merriam-Webster defines a disciple as someone who accepts and assists in spreading the teachings of another. Even Bible dictionaries vary in their explanations. So how should Mill Creek define a disciple? To answer that, we look to Jesus' own words.

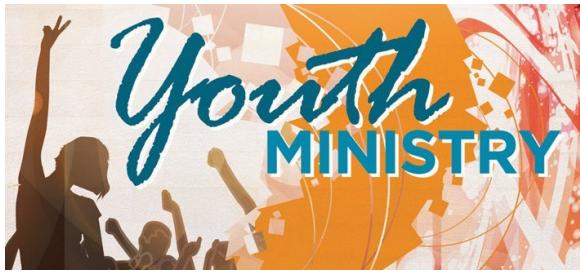
In Matthew 4:19, Jesus calls His first followers by saying, "**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**" Later, in Matthew 16:24, He adds, "**If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**" Finally, in Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus commissions His disciples to "**go and make disciples of all nations teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**"

So how do we bring these teachings together into a clear definition? I'd offer this: A disciple is devoted to God, connected to God's people, and participates in God's mission. Practically, this means **a disciple understands the Gospel, practices spiritual disciplines, pursues ongoing spiritual growth, uses their gifts to serve the church, shares the Gospel openly, and helps advance God's Kingdom through missional living.**

As we embrace this definition, each of us is invited to take a step deeper into the life Jesus describes. This isn't merely a concept to agree with; rather, it's a calling to embrace. Imagine what our church, our families, and our community could become if we lived with this kind of devotion, connection, and purpose. May we not only affirm this definition of a disciple but also commit ourselves to becoming and making disciples who reflect the heart and mission of Jesus in every part of life.

Brad Hamilton

Minister of Discipleship and Outreach



Last month, a group of 30 students and adults attended The Edge Conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center. Despite the cold temperatures, we were able to have an incredible weekend together. Thank you to everyone who prayed for our group that weekend. Not only did we have a great time, but several students made either first time decisions to trust in Jesus or to follow through on a previous decision with believer's baptism! Praise the Lord!

Josh
Minister of Youth

Upcoming Events:

2/15 - \$100 deposit for FUGE Camps due

2/28 - Blessed Girl's Conference @ Villa Heights \$30

Youth Culture Corner

What Teens Value Today

A great article about what teenagers value in their lives can be found at scholarsandstorytellers.com/teenvalues. Below are the top 4 things that teens value today according to the article:

- 1) Safety is the Foundation for Everything Else Adolescents Want
- 2) Teens Choose Kindness and Empathy in a Polarized World
- 3) Adolescents Prioritize Self-Acceptance—And Media Can Help Them See Themselves Clearly
- 4) Fun is a Tool for Coping and Connection, Not Just Entertainment



Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, February 4

5:45pm—6:20pm

In Room M-1

PLUG INTO
THE
POWER
OF
PRAYER



Congratulations to Dallas & Ginni Ellen Morris on the birth of their baby boy, Davyn Weston, on January 20. Davyn weighed 7 lbs 5 oz and was 20 inches long. Proud big brother is Daxton. Proud grandparents are Mack & Marcia Neighbors.

From the Deacons' Desk

The Myth of Self-Reliance

I honestly love the stimulus of my job; the adrenaline of tight deadlines and the satisfaction of solving hard problems are difficult to resist. As a self-confessed workaholic, my default setting is intense self-reliance. I tend to view every professional challenge as a mountain that I must conquer with my own grit, intelligence, and endurance. In this headspace, my eyes are rarely "lifted up"—they are glued to my screen, my calendar, and my own limited resources. I often ignore the question posed in Psalm 121:1, "*Where does my help come from?*" because, deep down, I believe the answer is simply, "Me."



However, the wisdom of Psalm 121:1-2 breaks the cycle of self-sufficiency. It reminds me that while I may enjoy the climb, I was never meant to carry the weight of the world on my shoulders. Practical application for me means intentionally stopping in the middle of the chaos to acknowledge that my help does not come from my productivity or my resume, but "**from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**" By choosing to lift my eyes, I shift my perspective from what I can produce to who God is. It frees me to work hard not out of a desperate need to sustain myself, but from a place of rested reliance on the One who sustains everything.

I like to share a new prayer I am making part of my morning routine. "Lord, as I begin this work, I lift my eyes to You. I confess my tendency to rely on my own strength. As I strive for excellence today, let it be to glorify You, not myself. I trust in You, the Maker of heaven and earth, to sustain me. Amen."

John Plenge
Deacon

Happy New Year from The Carpenter's Helpers!

I just wanted to give a quick update to everyone. Since beginning in June of 2025, we've been able to complete SIX projects for our neighbors in Botetourt County. The projects ranged from building new staircases, porches, hand rails, and handicapped ramps, to installing new doors, weatherproofing homes, insulating homes, and fixing existing structural problems.

This year has started out equally as busy! We have two major builds lined up for January and February already! January 30th we will be removing an existing porch and staircase, and building a brand new stronger and larger porch for a neighbor in Southern Botetourt County. Matt Sacra will be the lead for this project and the Helpers will be Bobby Simpson and Gary Fix. The project is expected to take one day.

The second project is on February 21st in Northern Botetourt County and is expected to take one day. We will be building a new handicapped ramp for a gentlemen who fell and is now paralyzed. Phillip Simmons will be the lead on this project, and we will have two helpers from Zion Hill Church that day. We will be looking for lunch, drinks, and one more helper from Mill Creek.

I wanted to personally thank EVERYONE who had contributed to The Carpenter's Helpers Mission. Whether your contribution is through prayer, monetary donation, lunch or drink donation, or physical labor, please know how important your help is, and how much it is appreciated. We are making lasting impacts on our neighbors lives, when they need it the most.

Thank you and GOD bless,
Matt Ferguson
540-759-2504 or fergusonfamilyprovisions@gmail.com



The Prayer Blanket Ministry ended 2025 on strong financial footing due to the generosity of our Mill Creek Baptist family. We'd like to use this space to say thank you for your financial support! 2025 was a roller coaster of a year, due to the loss of our primary local fabric source. The cost of fabric for prayer blankets has increased significantly from our new vendors. However, God is faithful to provide through Mill Creek member donations, as well as others, and the Prayer Blanket Ministry is on solid ground.

We gifted 153 prayer blankets in 2025. Since the start of the ministry in late 2013, 1956 prayer blankets have been given to those in need, with a tangible reminder of prayers spoken with every knot tied, over their individual circumstance. In 2025, for our community outreach projects, the ministry gave prayers blankets to Mill Creek Child Care preschool graduates, and 24 patriotic blankets to disabled veterans.

Our prayer for 2026, and beyond, is that our small but mighty team of prayer blanket makers will grow to carry this unique ministry into the future of Mill Creek Baptist Church. Stay tuned for info about an upcoming prayer blanket making training session. All fabric and supplies are provided, and our blanket makers work from home. We are grateful for those that are so faithful to take their time to craft blankets, and pocket prayer pillows. We very much look forward to training new folks interested in carrying this meaningful ministry into the future.

New Year Blessings, Prayer Blanket Ministry Team
Josephine Powell (540)588-2807, Sharon Ernest (540)874-5074



The members of the Backpack Ministry would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Daytime Mission Group and to the members of Mill Creek Baptist Church for all the monetary donations, gift cards and food that were donated during the month of January.

The money and food items will be used to help feed the 26 children we serve weekly at Buchanan Elementary School. The cost of the food is approximately \$40.00 per child per month.

Thank you again for your generosity. God Bless.
Dwight and Betsy Fix
(540)309-9614



Welcome New Members

Jared & Chelsey Craft join by profession of faith & baptism. Their address is 2569 Brughs Mill Road, Fincastle, 24090.

Ralph & Gail McCampbell are reuniting with Mill Creek after moving back to the area. Their address is 868 Stonegate Ct. Salem, 24153. Our church family rejoices in their decisions.

Inclement Weather Policy

For Sunday services, decisions about canceling church are made no later than 7am Sunday. 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.

Dominican Republic Preschool Dessert Auction 2026 is here!

February 8th

In the Fellowship Hall

Immediately following the 11:00 Service



All proceeds will go to support the Preschool in the Brisas del Este community in Santo Domingo.

Interested in attending the event and enjoying lunch?

Boxed Lunches (sub sandwich, chips, cookie, bottled water) will be served. Donations appreciated.



Interested in donating a dessert?

Those who wish to donate a dessert need to contact Melissa Cook (540-520-1389) by February 1st. Desserts will be on display the day of the Dessert Auction. Pictures of items will be shared on Facebook. We request, if at all possible, you text a picture of your dessert to Peggy (540-520-0107) by February 8th (and no later than 10:45 the morning of the auction).



Interested in placing an absentee bid?

Contact Peggy Arbogast (540-520-0107) by 10am on the morning of the auction.

Makeup date for inclement weather will be Sunday, February 15th.



**“Be the Bridge of
HOPE: Bullying –
Prevention and
Response”**

**WMU/HerMission Focus
Training**

Saturday, February 21

12:30 – 3:00pm

**Connelly Memorial Baptist Church
6840 Thirlane Road, NW, Roanoke, VA 24019**

Registration and light refreshments 12:30 – 1:00

Speaker and Breakout Sessions 1:00 – 3:00

Do you have concerns about the bullying that is taking place in our society today? Would you like to learn how to help? Come join us for Focus Training as we discover how to recognize bullying, ways to help prevent it, and how to respond to it. Need more information? Contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914).

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

For over 40 years, the Woodcutting Ministry of our church has helped to keep folks warm during the winter. Currently, there are 9 homes in Botetourt County that rely on our faithful deliveries of firewood to their homes. From Locust Bottom close to Iron Gate to Blue Ridge Turnpike in Fincastle to Boyd Street in Buchanan to Indian Rock near Rockbridge County, the outreach of this firewood ministry provides heat and comfort near and far. Most of these referrals come to Richard Simpson from Melissa Lucas at the Resource Center. On Woodcutting Sundays, as many as 15 woodcutters can be found cutting, splitting, loading and delivering firewood in our community. On New Year's Day about 20 workers were busy helping. Thus far, more than 23 loads of wood have been given to our neighbors in need. Woodcutting is scheduled as the need for firewood arises.

Kitchen Reminder

Just a reminder that we share our kitchen with many ministries throughout the week, including our child care center. To ensure everyone has a positive experience, all members and ministry teams are asked to leave the kitchen properly cleaned and reset after each use. Thank you for helping us care for our shared spaces with excellence, hospitality, and respect for every ministry that depends on them.

Hospitality Committee



Ditty Bag Workday Saturday, February 14 9am – 12pm

We will have a workday for sewing ditty bags for the 2026 SW VA mission trip. Bring your sewing machines and join a group of ladies who enjoy sewing and fellowship. We will work from 9am to 12:00pm in the fellowship hall. A light lunch will be provided. Even if you cannot sew, you can help with cutting or putting strings in the finished bags. Call Donna Crawford (540-798-3600) or Laura Epperly (540-520-5768) for more info.



My husband received one of your beautiful prayer blankets from his brother, Don Epperly.



To say "Thank You" would not be adequate. The blessings extended thru this gift are invaluable to those facing life's trials, especially health issues. Wrapping up in this blanket is like a "big hug" from the Lord himself. What a compassionate & thoughtful mission to be a part of.

May God bless each of you in this mission.

Mason & Glenda Epperly

Ditty Bag Sunday

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**. **Checks need to be made payable to the RVBA WMU**. Please join in helping to provide these needed supplies to students in our own state.

Daytime Mission Group Tuesday, February 3 10:00am

In the Fellowship Hall

The focus of the February gathering of the Daytime Mission Group will be the 2025 mission trip to Peru that was sponsored by HerMission (formerly WMUV). Guest speaker will be Connie Cruze, Associate pastor and Minister of Music at Melrose Baptist. Come and learn.

A potluck lunch will follow the meeting. All are invited to join us!

BWNG Meeting (Baptist Women's Night Group) Monday, February 9 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall

A potluck meal will be followed by guest speaker, Sharon Ernest, from our Prayer Blanket Ministry. Everyone is invited to join us to learn more about this important ministry.

Dear Mill Creek family,

Dad, Michael and I would like to thank you all for the calls, cards, prayers, texts, food and support during this difficult time. You all have been a great comfort to us. May the Lord Bless You and Keep You!

Love,
Melissa Simpson Walters
(Richard Simpson's daughter)



Go, Give, Pray

2026 Southwest Virginia Partnership Mission Trip

Nickelsville, Virginia

March 1 - 5

Many from our Roanoke Valley Churches will be traveling to Southwest Virginia in early March to deliver books, Bibles, and toiletries to school children. Others will be helping to improve the home environments of those in need. Some will be volunteering at a local food pantry and others will be visiting in a local nursing home. All will be sharing God's love in tangible ways. For nearly twenty years, Mill Creek folks have been a key part of this ministry. Volunteers are needed for the teams that will visit the public schools, for the construction team, for the food pantry, and for the support team that will provide behind the scenes help.

There are many ways that you can help. First of all, **you can help by going**. The cost of the trip is less than \$200, which includes food and lodging. **You can help by giving**. We will be collecting monetary donations for toiletries and construction supplies on Ditty Bag Sunday which will be the first Sunday of February. The cost of purchasing hygiene products is around \$7 per student. You can join others as they collect gently used books to give to children. You may even want to purchase new books! (Books for Pre-K, Grades 4-7, high interest books and chapter books for older boys are needed the most.) **You can help by praying**. Pray that God will provide the people and the resources needed. Pray for safety as the team travels and works. Pray for those who live in Southwest Virginia who struggle financially or may be dealing with drug abuse. Pray that Christ's love will be evident to all who are touched by this special mission to our neighbors.

The deadline for joining this team is Sunday, February 1st. Please contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914) if you would like more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive

On Saturday April 11 Mill Creek will be hosting a blood drive from 0800 (8am) to 1300 (1pm) in our fellowship hall. Sorry about the 0800/1300 I had a flashback to my Navy days. Please consider signing up on the Red Cross website to make a donation at that time. This drive is in cooperation with Buchanan Baptist Church which has their next blood drive on June 27th.

Don Ditzler



**American
Red Cross**



Pop-Tops & Stamps

A donation of some pop-tops or canceled stamps doesn't seem like much, but never underestimate the Lord's ability to make small gifts into a large difference for others. Our last drop off of pop-tops to the Ronald McDonald house weighed 14 1/2 pounds and was much appreciated. Also we received a thank you note from the Stamps for Wounded Veterans organization for our donations to them. Please keep those pop-tops and stamps coming! The collection boxes are close to the fellowship hall entrance.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you again to all for the very successful 2025 Operation Christmas Child drive. Once again the Mill Creek congregation showed one of the many ways it is determined to spread the Good News at home and throughout the world. Now for 2026! For February, we request donations of hats, gloves, and scarves. It sure seems like it is still winter out there, but for many retailers they start to put many of these items on sale to make way for spring merchandise—kind of like trying to sell us Christmas trees in September. But again, thank you for a very rewarding 2025 drive! On to 2026!





VBS 2026

July 12-16

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids will plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. As you are planning your 2026 summer vacations, please remember to keep this week open! Please be in prayer about how you can participate in one of our largest community outreach opportunities. We will have a VBS Commitment Sunday in March. More details to come!



Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers

Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers have recovered from the Christmas break and during the month of January learned about the visitors who came to see baby Jesus. Each week in December we talked about the birth of Jesus and how special the Christmas season is for us and this month we learned about those folks who made the journey to see the newborn King.

We also took time to have an indoor "snowball" fight and made snowflakes while our Minis played games.

During mission time we made cards for our

neighbors at the apartments and talked about being the hands and feet of Jesus to them.

Just a reminder, if there is NO school or if school is dismissed early due to weather, there are NO Wednesday night activities.

As always, if you know of any children who would like to join us on Wednesday nights OR if YOU are interested in serving in any capacity on Wednesday night, please contact Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107.



Child Care News

February is here, and winter has certainly made its presence known! We've experienced a lot of up-and-down temperatures lately, bringing some very cold days along with a few pleasant surprises. On the nicer days, the children have enjoyed getting outside for fresh air and playtime, which is always a welcome break during the winter months.

After the excitement of the Christmas holiday, we have settled back into our normal routines. The children have done well readjusting to the daily schedules, classroom activities, and spending time with their friends. Our school-agers spent the day with us on January 19th, as schools were closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. They had a fun and relaxing day here at the Center! Our older preschoolers went to the Buchanan library on Jan 20th to check out books and enjoy stories and activities with the librarian. They enjoy the library trip every month!

Happy Valentine's Day! Cherry



February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ditty Bag Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School & New Discoveries Class 11:00am Worship	2	3 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	4 5:30pm Whole-Notes & Half-Notes Practice 5:45pm Prayer Meeting in Room M-1 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	5	6	7
8 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 DR Team Dessert Auction & Luncheon	9 6:00pm BWNG Potluck in Fellowship Hall	10 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	11 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	12	13 Newsletter Articles Due	14 9:00am - 12:00pm Ditty Bag Workday in the Fellowship Hall
15 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 Deacons Meeting	16	17 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	18 5:30pm Whole-Notes & Half-Notes Practice 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service, Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	19	20	21 12:30pm - 3:00pm WMU/HerMission Focus Training @ Connelly Memorial Baptist Church
22 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	23	24 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	25 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	26	27	28 3:00pm - 9:00pm Blessed Girl Conference @ Villa Heights Baptist

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

Nonprofit Organization
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Return Service Requested

Mill Creek Baptist Church

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

**Quarterly Business
Meeting
Wednesday, February 11
6:30pm
Fellowship Hall**

All children's and youth activities will go on as scheduled.



Ash Wednesday
February 18
6:30-7:30pm

Join us for this special time of worship as we begin the Lenten season. The basic purpose of Lent is to help us create space in the middle of the chaos of life to focus on the presence of God in our lives as we journey toward the cross. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and is celebrated as a 40-day period, with the exception of Sundays, through the Saturday before Easter. Children's and youth activities will go on as scheduled that evening.