



# A Minute with Mercy



*Mercy Medicine Free Clinic ~ 500 South Coit Street*

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## *Mercy's Providers, the Core of Our Ministry*

*Wayne Jackson*

In this edition of our newsletter we have chosen to highlight the clinic's provider staff who, on a daily basis, eagerly see our medical and dental patients. These licensed professionals, some paid staff and some volunteers, do the work of diagnosing and then treating a variety of conditions and diseases. This one-on-one healing is the core of Mercy's ongoing mission to attend to our special patients.

For medical patients Mercy employs two primary care nurse practitioners who see patients Monday through Friday by appointment only. They refer, if indicated, these patients to other volunteer providers and support staff in the clinic for podiatry, nutrition counseling, physical therapy, pain management, and addiction medicine. In addition, Mercy Medicine is a teaching platform for young physicians as the McLeod Family Practice residents see patients at Mercy one evening per month. Our medical director, Dr. Steven Ross, continues to provide excellent clinical oversight for all of our medical

providers with the exception of the medical residents.

Mercy's four in-house volunteer dentists are also busy seeing our patients several times per month for basic dental care to include oral exams, extractions, restorations, and preparation for dentures and partials. The clinic partners with Sexton Dental Clinic to provide, as needed, dentures and/or partials to our patients at a substantially reduced cost. Mercy also maintains a robust dental and oral surgery network of professionals who agree to see our referred dental patients in their offices at no cost to these patients. Clinical oversight of our dental program is done by Dr. Edward Parker, DDS who also regularly sees patients in the clinic.

Supporting our providers is a highly proficient group of nurses, medical, and dental assistants as well as our "front office" administrative staff. All work hand-in-hand to accomplish Mercy's mission of providing quality health and dental care to those who seek it in a Christian, non-judgmental environment.



## Keep an eye out

 We will host an oyster roast in November for our 2022 fund raiser. Updates and details will be posted on Mercy Medicine's Facebook page.

 If you or someone you know has a business and would like to sponsor a Spirit Day/Night to benefit Mercy Medicine, please contact us to talk about ideas and specifics.

## *What's Going On With Mercy?*

 We have begun a quarterly gift card drawing for those patients who are on time for all appointments without rescheduling. This will, hopefully, incentivize some

who have not always been consistent in attending past appointments while at the same time encouraging those who have been reliable.

 Mercy anticipates seeing additions to our in-house staff in the near future, including a nurse practitioner and dentist. Also, we are transitioning to a new executive director. We

expect that process to be well underway by the time summer begins.

### *I Was Sick...*

The following statement from one of our patients, who we'll call Frank, is another example of the importance of treating people well while they are being well treated.

"I just wanted to say that visiting Mercy Medicine is like visiting family. I look forward to seeing the staff's warm, smiling faces every time I walk through the door. They don't treat their clients like a patient, they treat you like family. The doctor listens and takes his time with you. I never feel rushed when I'm there. Mercy Medicine has helped me when I had nowhere else to turn to, as a man that doesn't have insurance. I can honestly say I feel like if it wasn't for Mercy Medicine I wouldn't be here today."



### *Spotlight On... Nina Russell, DNP*

Dr. Russell is one of our two primary care nurse practitioners who sees patients here at Mercy Medicine each week. She also teaches in the Francis Marion University Nursing Program and has recently been awarded full tenure there.



In addition to her teaching and clinic responsibilities, Dr. Russell coordinates FMU's RN to BSN track so what free time she manages to find is precious to her. She spends as much of that time with her daughter as she can. When asked about her time here at Mercy, she replied, "Mercy Medicine Free Clinic is my home away from home. It has been an honor and a privilege to provide medical care for those less fortunate."

### *Faith Perspective*

*Rev. Jason Hamshaw, Mercy Medicine Free Clinic board of directors*

*"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God." ~ Leviticus 23:22*

We often view success in a very worldly fashion, but I wonder what heaven sees as significant and important. It is a sobering thing for me as I seek to align my heart and my ideas of success to the view of God as he looks down upon us, rather than the view of my peers. He, the king of the universe, became a little baby and took on our sin, shame, poverty, and brokenness. He didn't just give a hand out, but was willing to trade places with us. He gets our life and we get His. Christ's work on the cross accomplishes this for us. He bears our burden and binds himself to us. He makes us a place for us in His life, His Kingdom, and ultimately His family.

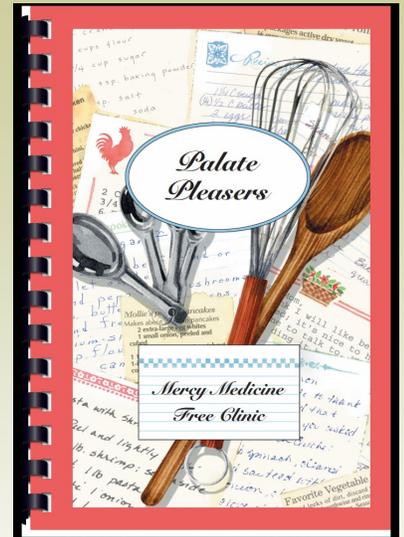
So, there is a principal in scripture about creating space for those in need. We find our place within the mercy of God. And we are called within his family to extend that mercy, space, and heart to his broken world. Mercy, of course, is the heart behind the many people offering their services here, whether medical, dental, or other specialties such as nutrition and physical therapy. Always considering the other is part of having the mind of humility, which Christ displays fully as he not only creates space in his life for us, but gives himself completely, even unto death, for our own benefit. I pray that as you consider the many lives that are touched by the servants who are living out the mercy of Christ at Mercy Medicine, you will hear God's invitation to create space in your life, time, talent, and treasure to support this valuable ministry in our community.

## Palate Pleasers ... Barbecued Meat Balls

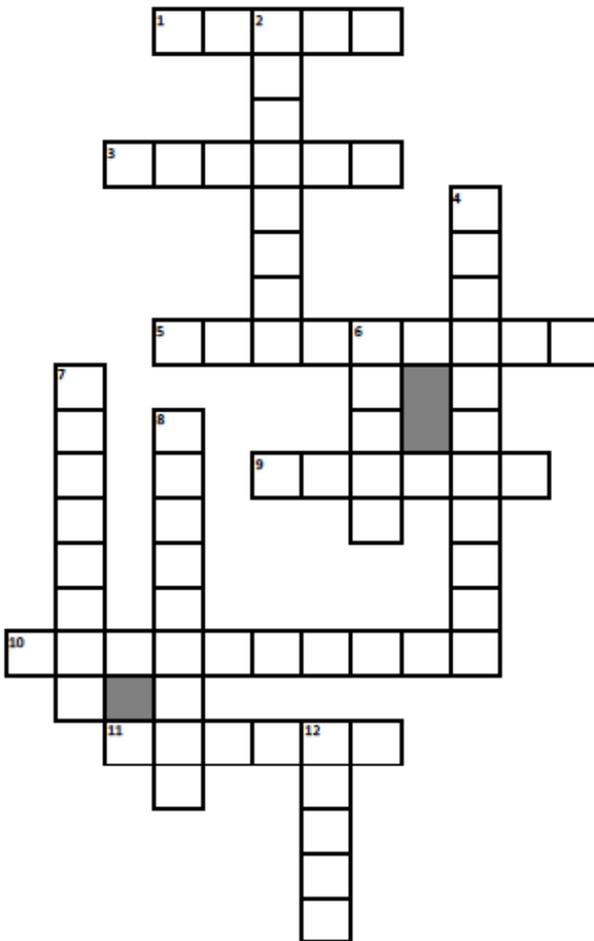
Palate Pleasers cookbooks available for \$20

- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 c. bread crumbs
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 c. catsup
- 1/2 c. water
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 c. vinegar
- 3 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt and pepper
- 1/2 c. chopped onion
- 1/2 c. chopped green bell pepper

Combine milk, bread crumbs, and ground beef to make approximately 1 inch meat balls. Place them in a Pyrex or baking pan. Combine remaining ingredients to make sauce. Pour over meat balls and bake at 350° for 45 minutes.



## How well do you know Mercy?



### ACROSS

1. Wash your \_\_\_ to help reduce the spread of germs.
3. Medical residents from this hospital come see our patients each month.
5. Mercy is a \_\_\_ ministry.
9. Our cookbook is called "\_\_\_ Pleasers".
10. Mercy relies heavily on who?
11. We focus on primary medical and \_\_\_ care.

### DOWN

2. Our 2022 oyster roast will be held in which month?
4. These cannot be accepted from private donors.
6. You can shop Amazon\_\_\_ to benefit Mercy.
7. Each Monday morning, we have this in the lobby.
8. Mercy patients are adults who are \_\_\_.
12. Our logo features this heavenly creature.

All answers can be found in either this newsletter or previous volumes.

A newsletter archive can be found at [mercymedicine.org](http://mercymedicine.org).

## *Healthy Pursuit*

Did you know that there is a correlation between poor oral health and heart disease? One does not cause the other and there are several predominant theories as to why they are connected, but there is an undoubted association. You can find articles all across the internet regarding this, but two quick reads can be found on the mayoclinic.org ([www.mayoclinic.org/adulthealth/faq-20057986](http://www.mayoclinic.org/adulthealth/faq-20057986)) and health.harvard.edu ([www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/gum-disease-and-the-connection-to-heart-disease](http://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/gum-disease-and-the-connection-to-heart-disease)) websites.

There is, also, a study on pubmed.gov ([pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32128623/](http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32128623/)) concluding that "improving oral hygiene may be associated with a decreased risk of occurrence of new-onset diabetes." The hypothesis states that two common connections between these issues are bacteria in the blood and chronic inflammation in the body.

Increasing evidence shows that oral health is important even beyond preventing cavities.



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