



Bethesda
Presbyterian
Church

4858 McConnell's Hwy.

York, SC 29745

803-328-1360

Sunday School
9:45

Worship Service
11:00

One Spirit ~

One Body ~

Many Gifts



This is a publication of the
people of Bethesda
Presbyterian Church

York, South Carolina

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I find myself yearning for Spring. I find myself waiting for the trees to begin budding, the days to get a little longer, and the warmth of the sun to bring back the color of the grass and cause flowers to bloom. I love spring! I enjoy so much the signs of new and renewed life. I want to see it, taste it, and hear the sounds of birds in the morning. For many of us, spring also is a time where we celebrate Lent. Lent is a time of spiritual reflection and seeking as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also a time where we desire to grow spiritually. How about for you? Have you found this to be true for you as well?

The idea of giving something up for Lent came out of the tradition in the early church as new believers were preparing for their baptisms at Easter, when fasting was used as a spiritual discipline to become aware of our need for God. Fasting or giving up something for Lent can be a good way to explore a deeper expression of faith. But “giving up something” does not just have to be about food. It can also be a time to give up or leave behind all those things that don’t nurture you, challenge you, or encourage you on your journey.

What is it you need to leave behind this Lenten season? Another way to observe Lent is to see this as a season to “take on” some new practice of prayer or study ... maybe for you it might be taking a daily walk in silence, or taking time to listen to music that lifts your spirit. Read a book, take time to call a friend, visit with a neighbor who is lonely, or be more disciplined in your reading of God's Word.

This Lent, I invite you to rededicate yourself to your own spiritual journey, turning to our loving God through prayer, worship, and service. In our ministry together, and in your personal family and devotional time, may you seek — and receive — the guidance of God for your own life’s journey. I close with this wonderful poem by Christina Rossetti entitled “Lent.” May it help to lead you into a deeper faith:

*It is good to be last not first,
Pending the present distress;
It is good to hunger and thirst,
So it be for righteousness.
It is good to spend and be spent,
It is good to watch and to pray:
Life and Death make a goodly Lent
So it leads us to Easter Day.*

In Christ,
Doug

"The
compassionate life
is a grateful life,
and actions born
out of gratefulness
are not compulsive
but free, not
somber, but joyful,
not fanatical, but
liberating. When
gratitude is the
source of our
actions, our giving
becomes receiving
and those to
whom we minister
become our
ministers."

-Unknown



Session Highlights

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The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, February 17, 2019. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

Participated in monthly Elder Training: Topic—The Role of the Elder Shepherd

Approved minor revisions to the *Manual of Operations*

Received monthly committee reports, including a report from the Personnel Committee on the three month review for Lindy Blanks, Interim Director of Christian Education, as stipulated in the Bethesda Presbyterian Church Personnel Policy

Received the financial report

Discussed Staff Appreciation Plans

Approved the following members of the Benevolence Team:

Pat Jones Frank Allen Dorothy Williamson

Received the Pastor's Report

Met in Executive Session—Approved Renewal of the *Covenant with an Interim Pastor*

From the Personnel Committee

During 2018 the Session approved changing the organizational structure of the Personnel Committee. This committee was previously composed of all six committee chairs and was chaired by the Clerk of Session. It was designated as a subcommittee of the Administrative/Stewardship Committee and was tasked to meet annually to receive staff evaluations, receive any recommendations concerning salary adjustments, and refer these recommendations through the Administrative/ Stewardship Committee to the Session.

In the process of reviewing the Personnel Policy for the Manual of Operations it was noted that there were several responsibilities specifically designated as responsibilities of the Personnel Committee within the Personnel Policy that were not included in the brief description of responsibilities of this committee. Therefore, at the June 20, 2018 Session meeting, the Session members approved the following changes:

The Personnel Committee is now a standing committee.

The Clerk of Session is designated committee chair.

The Personnel Committee is composed of the following members

Chairs of each committee responsible for overseeing the work of church staff members, as noted:

Administrative/Stewardship Committee—Church Secretary/Bookkeeper

Christian Education/Youth Committee—Dir. of Christian Education

Property Committee—Caretaker and Sexton

Worship Committee—Pastor and Music Director

The Church Treasurer

Meetings will be held quarterly or as needed.

Responsibilities of the Personnel Committee have been expanded to include those responsibilities already in place within the Bethesda Personnel Policy.

The Personnel Committee met several times during the year. The committee developed the Responsibilities of the Personnel Committee, based on the Personnel Policy.

They received staff evaluations and made recommendations to the Session concerning salary adjustments.

The committee chair also conducted an exit interview with the Director of Children's and Youth Ministry on her departure from Bethesda, as stipulated in the Personnel Policy.

Souper Bowl of Caring Donations

Many thanks to those who donated cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign on February 3rd. Four large boxes of soup and other food items were delivered to the PATH distribution center in York.

Please remember Bethesda's own Food Pantry that is available to families in our community or church that are unable to provide meals for whatever reason. Donations for the Food Pantry will be collected at Wednesday Night Suppers or may be dropped off at the church office. Donations should be non-perishable canned or packaged items and can not be out of date.

February Attendance

	Morning Worship	Sunday School
2/3/19	62	37
2/10/19	80	52
2/17/19	84	60
2/24/19	53	50

March Elders on Duty

Ralph Adams Mark Boyd Steve Childers

If you would like to serve as a Liturgist for the Sunday morning worship service during the months of March or April, please contact John Nettles, Rev. Blaikie or Pat in the church office.

Retirement Seminar Offered

Bethesda will host a Retirement Seminar on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending, please call Sheila (803-366-0510) at Edward Jones Investments. The deadline to register is March 8th.

PW Spiritual Retreat March 16

Bethesda's Presbyterian Women will host a Spiritual Retreat on March 16th in the Fellowship Hall. Registration and refreshments will be at 9:00 - 9:30 am. Our speaker will be Devonte Walker from the Children's Attention Home. Our theme this year is "Baskets of Love and Hope" All Presbyterian Women in Providence Presbytery are invited. You may find a list of items to donate on the front pew of the sanctuary.

Other events include the special World Day of Prayer service on March 8. It will be held at Beth Shiloh Church in York at 6:30 pm. On March 23rd Providence Presbytery's PW Spring Gathering will be held at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian in Rock Hill. Toothbrushes will be collected for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING	 LENT A SEASON OF RENEWAL	40 DAYS MARCH 6 - APRIL 18
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	WEDNESDAY	MARCH 6 7:30 PM



Child Development Center

Will it ever stop raining??

The children keep asking, "When can we go out and play?"

The teachers keep answering, "When it stops raining!"

The parents keep saying, "I can't wait for the sun to shine so the children can play outside!"

We hope the sun will shine and spring will arrive soon because there is much to be done to get ready for our

CDC Spring Carnival!

When: April 6th 10:00 - 2:00 pm

Where: Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Family Life Center

What: Hot dog lunch and Bake Sale
Carnival games and prizes
Silent auction items
Vendor tables

For more info contact Cindy Jackson 803-328-0149



Children and Youth

A Valentine's party for Jesus was held February 17th immediately following worship. We enjoyed sandwiches, cookies, candy and other yummy treats. The Fellowship hall was decorated in red and white hearts and balloons. After eating, participants of all ages visited six 3 minute stations where they engaged in activities such as planning a love song for Jesus, a Valentine gift for Jesus, and a friend date for Jesus. A good time was had by all!

On February 24th we began a new weekly mission at the conclusion of the children's sermon. The children will be collecting "**rustling bags**" from the congregation. These are grocery bags containing nonperishable food donations that will benefit the Bethesda Food Pantry boxes and PATH. They are called "rustling bags" because of the sound they will make as members wiggle them to alert the children they have donations!

The children's Sunday School class has begun collecting coins in order to purchase a **Heifer International Christmas gift in December**. This is the gift of an animal that will supply families from other countries with food.

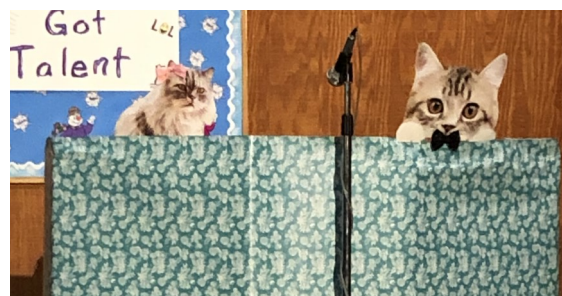
On Sunday, March 17th the children, youth, and young at heart are invited to go skating in Rock Hill. Children 8 years old and younger must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

Providence Presbytery's Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center is now open for registration for children and youth summer camps and programs. If interested, you may visit their website at www.bethelwoods.org. Register early as there are limited spaces available for the various camps. **Please see Miss Lindy before you register if you would like for your child to attend.**

For more info contact Lindy Blanks, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
bethesdaaycm@comporium.net 803-899-2119

Bethesda Showcases the Talents of Young and Old

After a delicious spaghetti dinner, the Bethesda Talent Competition got underway, showcasing the talents of young and old alike. The competition was held on February 23rd in the Family Life Center. Contestants performed a variety of acts ranging from magic tricks to dancing to puppetry to singing and playing instruments. A special thank you to Trudy Amick for serving as Master of Ceremonies and to the panel of three judges, who were Jimmy Darby, Donna Hagler, and Laura Smith. The 3rd place winner was a dance act by Adam Cole. The “Three Times a Lady” comic dancers, performed by Sarah Childers, Esther Bailey, and Susan Hibbard, took 2nd place. First place winners were Tamara and Kylie Rockholt who sang a beautiful duo called “My Blessing.” Congratulations to **all** who participated! For those of you with hidden talents, we hope to see you on stage next year at Bethesda’s Second Annual Talent Competition!



Notes of Thanks

The family of William E. "Bill" Russell, Sr. wishes to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Staff and congregation of Bethesda Presbyterian Church for the many expressions of kindness, compassion, concern and sympathy during Dad's rapid illness and death. Though losing a family member is never easy, the gracious support and comfort was overwhelming and appreciated, beyond words. Bethesda has held a special place in the hearts of our family for many generations. In gratitude, Bill Jr., Todd, and Tanya

Thank you for the beautiful rose colored wool blanket you gave me. I have really enjoyed covering up with it. I will always treasure it because you gave it to me. Thanks again for remembering me.

Love, Ina H. Oates

The family of Robert Palmer Jones gratefully acknowledges the kind expressions of sympathy for our family. Our heartfelt thanks to all.

Cheryl Forlines

Congratulations!



Arrived Jan 5, 2019

Proud Parents: Katie Hunter and Marcus Cobb

Proud Grandparent: Steve Kay



Arrived Feb 11, 2019

Proud Parents: Andrew Wescott and Shelley Knotts

Proud Grandparent: Bobbie Kaye Hagler

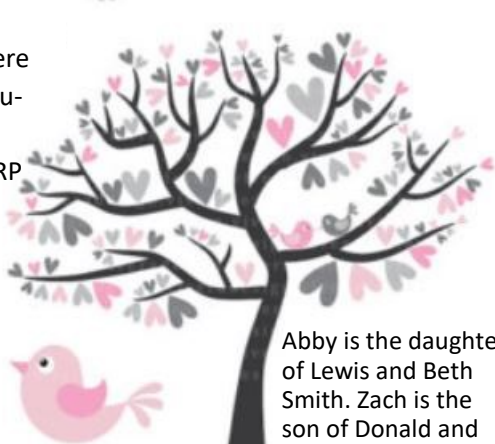


Arrived Feb 19, 2019

Proud Parents: Dale and Ally Percival

Proud Grandparents: Mike and Karen Percival

Abby Smith and Zach Costner were married on February 16, 2019 at Neely's Creek ARP Church.



Abby is the daughter of Lewis and Beth Smith. Zach is the son of Donald and Jeannie Costner.

Christina Hibbard and Carlos Joniaux were married on January 10, 2019.



Christina is the daughter of Wes and Susan Hibbard.

Excerpts from the Matias Family Winter Newsletter...



We always like to begin each year remembering God’s goodness and faithfulness to us throughout the previous year. It is one of our traditions.

As we reflect, we can’t help but think of you - our supporters in missions. Thank you for being a part of our lives and ministry through prayer, encouragement and financial contributions. The body of Christ is truly our support system as we serve the Lord in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and we are extremely grateful. We thank God for you! These are just a few of the many happenings from 2018. At times our heads and calendars were spinning, but God gave grace, especially from July through December when Felipe was leading Casa Semear (our leader was on furlough).

We look forward to 2019 with much hope with what God has in store as we continue to work with children living in urban slums and Felipe continues his seminary studies. Please pray for our family as we share God’s love, speak truth and shine His light in the darkness.

Blessings from Brazil, The Matias Family



We are constantly sharing the Word of God with the kids at Casa Semear. This donation of Bibles helped place Bibles into the hands and homes of these teens.



Going to outdoor camps allow for the kids to experience special moments where we can have lots of fun and share deep truths from the Word of God. We held two different camps this year, and these city kids (who live in tiny slum houses) got a nice taste of nature.



Brazilian Evangelistic Association is a 501(c)(3) Organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to: BEA Ministries (in the Memo Line write “Matias Project”) PO Box 808, Xenia, OH 45385-0808 Tel. 937-249-0657 www.beaministries.com



Josiah began swimming lessons as part of the treatment to help strengthen his respiratory system.



MARCH

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Mondays - Boy Scouts 7:00 FH Hand Chimes 6:30 LP
 Tuesdays - Cub Scouts 7:00 FH
 Wednesdays - TGI Wed Dinner 6:30 FH Choir 7:30
 Thursdays - Bible Study 7:00 FH
 Prayer Shawl - March 5 and 19 6:30 SR
 Evening Circle - March 4 6:00 SR
 Morning Circle - March 13 10:00 FH
 Men of the Church - March 2 8:00 AM Passmore's Grocery
 Newsletter Deadline for Submissions - March 28

Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

Admin/Stewardship Committee - March 10 7:00 SR
 Child Development Center - March 12 6:30 SR
 Christian Education - March 3 Right after worship FH
 Congregational Life - March 10 4:00 FH
 Property Committee - Scheduled as Needed March 9 Workday
 Worship Committee - March 10 6:00 SR
 Personnel Committee - Quarterly, as Scheduled
 PNC Committee - March 12 7:00 LP

Other Activities in March

Sat. March 2 - MOC 8:00 Passmore's Grocery
Sun. March 3 - Plentiful Harvest 2:00 - 6:00
 Covenant Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill
Mon. March 4 - Evening Circle 6:00 SR
Mon. March 4 - Hand chimes 6:30 LP
Tues. March 5 - Prayer Shawl 7:00 SR
Wed. March 13 - Morning Circle 10:00 FH
Wed. March 6 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:30
Sat. March 9 - Church-wide Property Workday
Tues. March 12 - Retirement Seminar 6:00 FH
Wed. March 13 - Morning Circle 10:00 FH
Wed. March 13 - Mobile Food Pantry 9:00
 Green Pond UMC Clover
Fri. March 15 - Set-up for PW Retreat FH
Sat. March 16 - PW Retreat 9:00 - 2:00 FH
Sun. March 17 - Children and Youth Skating
Sun. March 17 - Session Meeting 7:00 SR
Wed. March 20 - Staff Meeting 10:00 FH
Sat. March 23 - Scout Pinewood Derby FLC

March 3 Richard Meek
 Alan Smith, Sr.
 March 4 Harrison Allen
 Edie Nettles
 March 6 Lane Russell
 March 7 Joni Walker
 Kenny Williams
 March 8 Charles Johnson
 March 9 Mills Sharpe
 March 10 Taylor Adkins



March 12 Jason Melton
 David Nettles
 March 13 Trevor Coxton
 March 18 Charles Williamson, IV

March 19 Conner Goodband
 March 22 Irvin Jones
 March 25 Ainsley Darby, III
 March 25 Gloria Anne Hope
 March 27 Dorothy Williamson
 March 28 Steven Dickson
 March 29 Chad Russell
 March 30 Jonathan Brown
 March 31 Karen Boyd

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
Sonny Moore
Ethan Hose
Eddie Allan Smith
Julie Cornwell
Don Faris
Walter Jonas
Harold Walker
Barbara Thompson
Donna Parrish
Darius Alexander

Family of Carolyn Rockholt
Family of Bill Russell, Sr.
Family of Bobby Jones
Family of JoEllen Smith

Homebound

Amelia Simmers
Robert Jones

In the Community and Beyond

Dorothy Adkins
Walt Bratton
Larry Rockholt
Chris Brackett
Randy Ransom
Kathy Conroy
Cheryl Hughes
Jerry Wright
Christine Roberts
Dorothy Hazard
Cathy Cole
Caleb Dickson
Jessie Mitchell

Donnie Greene
Ed Beam
J. Claude Bell IV
Christine King
Terri Gaskill and husband
Ashlyn Armstrong
John Percival
Cheryl Hughes
Phil Webb
New Mother's Cottage at
Thornwell
Leaders of Our Country

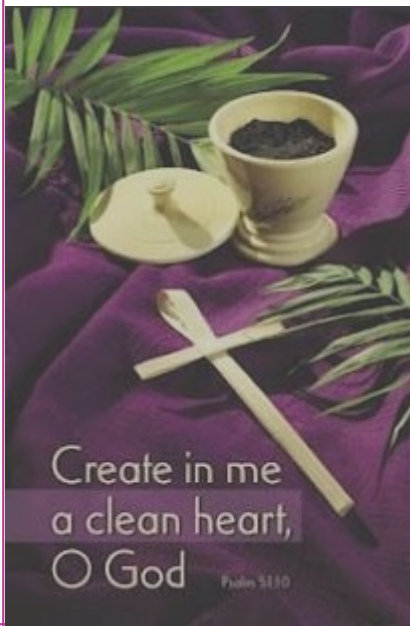
Our Global Mission Partners

Matias, Palacios, and Driggers
Families

March

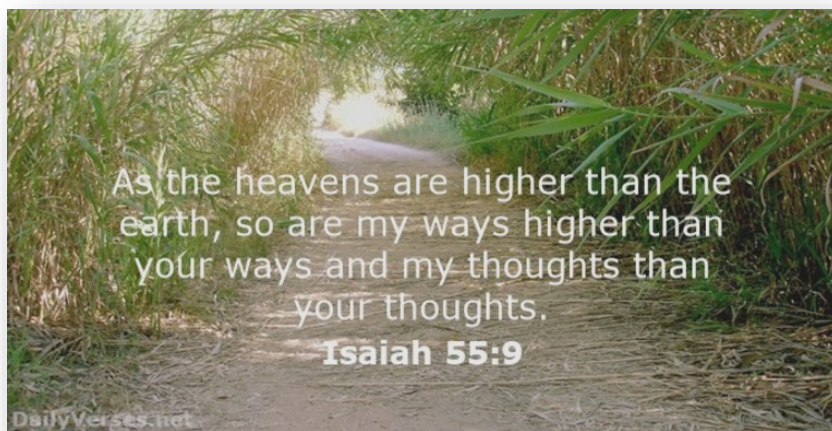
A Thought to Ponder

A Message to Carry



Dear Lord, as we enter this solemn and holy season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of your love for us as you humbled yourself and gave your life on the cross that we might receive the gift of eternal glory with you. Amen

-Author Unknown



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Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*4858 McConnells Hwy.
York, South Carolina 29745*

Phone: 803.328.1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Ralph Adams

Trudy Amick

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Debbie Darby

Cheryl Forlines

Robert Fulmer

Jim Percival

Karen Percival

Stacy Russell

Debbie Simpson

Johnny Walker



Join us for the Ash Wednesday Service

March 6 7:30 PM Sanctuary

Our Mission

We celebrate the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ who is the head of the Church. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are God's servants dedicated to the nurturing of all people in faith, service and fellowship; providing service to those in need; comforting the bereaved; ministering to the sick; offering solace to the troubled; and always seeking the lost.

We invite all believers in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to share the communion loaf and cup of communion as symbols of our unity and service to the Risen Lord.



Established 1760

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Staff:

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Interim Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Lindy Blanks

Caretaker - Mike Percival Sexton - Donna Hagler