

December, 2021



# Bethesda Banner

**Bethesda  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**4858 McConnells Hwy.**

**York, SC 29745**

**(803)328-1360**

**Sunday School 9:45 am**

**Worship 11 am**

**Visit**

**[www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)  
for updates.**



*This is a publication of  
the people of  
Bethesda Presbyterian Church*

A few years ago I got to meet a minister who we supported in Nepal. At first, we only heard from Suman through emails and handwritten letters that were sent to a member of the church. She would bring the letters to the church and then read them in worship. Occasionally we would get a flash drive with a small video on it and that too would be shared.

It was clear that God was at work in Suman's life and the work that he was doing in Nepal. But he was over there and we were here.

Then in 2019, while exiting the Kathmandu International Airport, I saw a young man, with a big smile waving at me with both hands. As you can imagine, it was Suman. Tears filled both of our eyes as we hugged. We walked several blocks together talking and laughing. He kept saying, "I can't believe you're here."

Since that trip Suman and I keep in contact as we can. This morning he shared this picture on his Facebook page that spoke to me.



Just linger with it for a moment. . . Notice how many people are present and helping this man during his time of need. . . Notice their posture. . . One has his knees; another is holding his belt. Someone has tied a rope around him. While another person has put something around the man's knees. It appears that at least one person is holding his neck in such a way that communication is still possible. I don't imagine the conversation to be anything more than one of comfort and support. Many people surround him and seem to be attentive to his need without judgment—I suspect.

And so I wonder, as Advent is here, who could God be placing around you that you could help and be present to? Sometimes the need is great, truly great, but other times, God puts people in our path for us to just hold onto? Who is he placing around you?

Blessings  
Derek

One of the blessings from our new pastor is his gift for sharing a daily thought. The title of Pastor Derek's Blog is "And God Showed Up..." Pastor Derek's Blog <https://revmarotta.blogspot.com/> is shared from his Facebook page and a link on the main page of the Bethesda Website.

## Helping our neighbors:

**Food Pantry** - a basket will be available weekly in the vestibule for donations to the Food Pantry. There will also be a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the [Wednesday Night Dinners](#). Please bring non perishable food items to help us provide for the hungry. These items are distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund and also delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

### Mobile Food Pantry Sites

December 3, 9:00 am - Hermon Presbyterian Church, 107 Heckle Blvd., Rock Hill

December 27, 9:00 am - Green Pond Church, 983 Bethel St., Clover

December 29, 9:00 am - Jerusalem Baptist Church, 435 Farris Rd., Clover

December 30, 9:00 am - Green Pond Church, 983 Bethel St., Clover

**Operation Christmas Child:** This year we will be collecting packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. There are three ways you may participate in this outreach project:

1. Bring your filled shoebox to church on or before Sunday, December 12. Directions for packing the shoeboxes are in the vestibule.
2. Place a check made out to Operation Christmas Child in the offering plate. There is a \$9 processing fee for each shoebox, which covers shipping and other costs. This is a good way to participate in this project if you are unable to go shopping to fill shoeboxes.
3. Go with us to help at the Processing Center in Charlotte on Monday, December 13. Please contact Steve Childers to sign up to be a part of this trip.

**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen 2022 date:** February 6, 2022 and April 4, 2022

### Missions and Outreach Report—November

#### Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Welcome Basket for the Marotta Family  
Card Ministry

#### Donations to:

Thornwell  
Presbyterian Home  
Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala  
The Matias Family in Brazil

#### Prayer Shawl Ministry

3 Lap Afghans Presented

#### Children/Youth Outreach

Donated Treat Bags to Children's Attention Home

#### Community Support/Outreach:

Elders and Church Sexton Served at Community Member Funeral Held at Bethesda  
*Plentiful Harvest Kitchen*—Ten Members Prepared and Served Free Meal at Covenant Presbyterian Church  
*Christmas Gifts for Local Family*—Sunday Schools classes began planning for and collecting donations of gifts and food to support a local family

#### Operation Christmas Child

#### Food Items Collected for Food Pantry



**Poinsettias-** There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for Poinsettias in “memory” or in “honor” of someone. Poinsettias are \$12.00 each, and cash or check needs to be turned in no later than December 5. Checks may be made payable to Bethesda Presbyterian Church. You may give the cash or check to the Church Office, Bobby Fulmer, Stacy Russell, or Dorothy Williamson. The Poinsettias will be in the Church beginning on December 19.

Thornwell Home for Children has received a large matching donation. Every dollar received up to \$150,000 will be matched dollar for dollar. So you can double your donation just by making one! Mark your checks "Matching Fund" and send it to Thornwell Home for Children 302 South Broad Street Clinton, SC 29325

A Candlelight Memorial Service will be at 5:15 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24. People should let the Church Office or Derek know if they have someone to remember at that service. Service will be in the courtyard weather permitting. Following will be the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm.



Advent Calendars for Children and Youth Advent Calendars have been ordered for the children and youth. These calendars have been placed in the vestibule. Please take as many as you need for your family and friends.

#### Session Report to the congregation for November, 2021

The Session of Bethesda Presbyterian Church met at 6:00 PM on Sunday November in the Session room. The meeting began with a devotion presented by Elder Trudy Amick followed by Welcoming the new Moderator the Reverend Dr. Derek Marotta. The moderator began with a discussion with the Elders by asking for their understanding of the “*Mission of God.*”

Church Financial and Committee reports were received with no discussion

Unfinished Business included:

approving several changes and updates to the Session’s Manual of Operations.

Other items included:

Progress reports for Consolidation of Cemetery records storage, development of the Church Disaster Preparedness Plan, and further discussion for the Church Security plan related to Concealed Carry requirements for churches.

New Business

Approval of the 2022 church budget. The Session approved an operating budget of \$226,904.93 for 2022.

Ordination for New Elders was set for Sunday January 2, 2022

Elder Shepherds contributed reports of their Shepherd folds and the Session continues discussions of ways to ensure all members are connected to the life of the church.

The Session voted to not hold the regular stated meeting in December. The next regular stated meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Sunday January 16, 2022.

[John Nettles](#)

Clerk of Session

Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Y)

November 29, 2021

Our Trex bench has arrived! It is beside the playground at the end of the Fellowship Hall. We would like to begin collecting plastics again to get another bench. We need volunteers to help weigh and take the plastic to a collection site - these are located at Food Lion, Walmart and Harris Teeter. The receptacles at Food Lion are located outside the store, so all you have to do is pull your car up to unload. If you would like to be on a rotation to help or have questions let Steve or Sarah Childers know.

*Thank  
You*

Dear Bethesda,

Sunday was such a delightful day. Thank you so much for welcoming us! The music was wonderful and I had a blast with the children! So grateful for your dedication and service in mission as we serve Christ.

Peace,  
Olivia Haney

Sunday was wonderful for my spirit - your assistance, welcome and stories were a witness of Christ's working in your midst. We lift prayers for all of you and your future work together with Rev. Marotta and give support to his family.

Thanks for the invitation to be with you at this transitional season.

In Christ,  
Hoover Haney

Dear Bethesda,

Thank you for the luncheon, the video and the gift card after my last service with you. Jean and I felt both cherished and loved. The last 5 1/2 years have been a blessing for us as we became a part of the Bethesda community. Your many expressions of love, kindness and friendship have deeply touched our hearts.

God bless you!

Doug and Jean

The Blaikie's new address:

224 E. Nottingham Road  
Columbia, SC 29210



Update from Dr. Tito and La Mision:

In June and July we had the opportunity to make two medical trips in different areas, we worked in Tameja village after a long time. The people received us with too much love and kindness, thanks to God we attended 173 patients in medicine, dental and glasses area.

We continue our medical trip in San Carlos Village, it was a blessing to see how the people received medicine and food supplements. We attended 153 people.

We went to San Pedro la Cocona village and no matter what the weather was we were able to attend 164 patients delivering medicine and supplements food.

After a year of pandemics, God opened the doors for us to continue doing our medical trips. In this time, we found many diseases like acute gastrointestinal and skin diseases that we had not seen for a long time, we concluded that there was a setback due to the lack of visits of La Mision to these communities. Lack of hygiene and medication were part of this problem. For us it is very important to continue with medical trips and attack these types of diseases, thank to God we were able to bring and deliver medical treatments to control these diseases.

Thanks for your help and support once again we were able to bless 125 families with 1,305 pounds of food. We included incaparina, rice, beans, oatmeal, and sugar. Also La Mision has helped families close to us who are going through difficult times about the pandemic.

Our mission is to share the gospel with all people and one of the ways to do it is that in each bag of food we include a bible devotional that people can read it together as a family

.We delivered nutritional supplements in Sarita and Lampara School, we reached 99 kids from those schools through the scholarship program we keep fighting against malnutrition in our children.

We delivered 1,980 pounds of supplements food, we included incaparina, oatmeal, rice, beans, and sugar.

We ask for your prayers because 16 kids are without sponsors.

(If you are interested in the sponsoring a child from one of these villages or have questions about the sponsorship program let Sarah Childers know.)



## December Birthdays



- 1 Derek Marotta, Lewis Smith
- 5 Will Johnston
- 7 James Anthony, Jr.
- 8 Ernice Bookout
- 9 Jerry Dickson, Robert Walker
- 16 Micah Hancock
- 18 Martina Russell
- 21 Ginger Dewey, Ina Oates
- 27 Eddie Smith
- 28 Robert Fulmer
- 29 Carson Smith
- 31 Liz Blackwell, Kim Johnson

### November Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Online Worship
10/31/21	72	32	22
11/7/21	43	31	
11/14/21	86	33	52
11/28/21	76	41	

December Verse to Remember

**As we celebrate the Advent of our Savior, note carefully the four titles Isaiah gives to the Messiah.**

**“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

**Isaiah 9:6**

# Remember in Prayer

## At Bethesda

Lou Anne Hildebrand

Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family

Edie Nettles (back surgery)

Ina Oates

Krystal Jordan

Frank Allen

Anita Ferguson Buffolino

Bill Dover

Steve Rawdon

Ruth Rawdon (back surgery)

Eddie Allan Smith (back)

## Deaths:

William Royall, 11/10/21 (Ed & Dorothy Williamson's brother-in-law)

## Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and

Tito Palacios (La Mision)

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your requests be made  
known to God."*

*Philippians 4:6*

## In the Community and Beyond

Betty Jean Walker Feindel

Charles Gantt (Edie's brother)

Rowdy Jordan (Crystal's father)

Randy Ransom

Sharon Gable

Jim Hodnett

Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)

Rick Sturgis (Percival's friend) pancreatic cancer

John Rogers (Tara's dad)

Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer

Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)

Rick Stallard (Josh's father)

Sawyer Long (Jeff & Kim Parrish's grandson) cancer

Ottis Wagner

Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)

Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)

Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)

Ed Beam (Cecelia Alexander's brother-in-law)

Ellen Green

Scott McDaniel (Bill Dover's son-in-law)

Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus

Barbara Good (Debbie Darby's mother)

Kathy Gale (Debbie Simpson's friend)

Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)

Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)

Bryan Good (Debbie Darby's brother)

Eddie Gregory (cancer)

Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)

Jessie Mitchell (Childers' friend) cancer

Linda Strauss (Eddie & Nancy Smith's friend, stage 4 cancer)

# Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

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Email: [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)

Our Pastor:

Rev. Derek Marotta

Our Elders:

Trudy Amick

Ernice Bookout

Sarah Childers

Jimmy Darby

Bobby Fulmer

Susan Hibbard

Irvin Jones

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Todd Russell

Debbie Simpson

Dorothy Williamson

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us  
a son is given: and the government  
shall be upon his shoulder: and his  
name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty  
God, The everlasting Father, The  
Prince of Peace."*

*Isaiah 9:6*

## **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:

Pastor - Derek Marotta

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler