

March 2023



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
for updates.**



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

It has been about a month since Matsiko left Bethesda and I am still processing the blessings that I received from their time with us.

I still think about how our house was full to overflowing with Liberian girls braiding hair, singing songs, and enjoying so much fruit. Like any other host family from this church will tell you, these children bring something special into our lives that cannot be measured. The challenge is creating enough space in our crowded lives to find room for them to bless us—but as a church we did it. We excelled at this, I think.

While the girls were with us, Jennifer celebrated her birthday. Both JonMark and Emma asked what she wanted for her birthday gift. She said that she didn't need anything and was happy to have Matsiko with us. She was happy and felt blessed and loved by these girls.

But the Liberians had other ideas.

Under Hawa's watchful eye the girls made the most wonderful meal for us and our guests on Monday night. It looked like a modified gumbo and it tasted amazing. We were a bit wary of what was being served to us since I purchased six habaneros from Publix for the meal earlier in the day. The dish was not spicy and, like I said, it tasted amazing.

Walking into the kitchen, hands full of grocery bags, I placed the groceries down on the counter and asked Hawa if there was anything that I could do to help. She chuckled because we just talked about how Liberian men do not cook—and truthfully they cannot cook either.

She knew that I can cook, but did not want my help and politely ushered me out of my kitchen. She said, this meal was their gift to us for being hospitable. I was told that this stew would take about four hours to cook and there was a lot to do so they needed to get started.

One by one the seven girls came into the kitchen smiling and giving me a hug. They asked for knives, cutting boards, spoons, pots. "Dad, where is the spice? Dad, can I use this pot? Dad, how do I turn this stove on?" They had this under control. My task was to let someone else serve me and my family.

This is the same task that we face as Lent ends and we contemplate how Lent has changed us. Many of us are so quick to 'do' all the work that is necessary. We are quick to take the lead on what needs to be done. But this year, God has asked us to consider letting someone else, Jesus specifically, serve us.

Let the Messiah do the work of feeding your soul as he washes your feet. Let the Messiah feed you with spiritual bread when you are tired and suffer. Let Jesus do the work. . . I wonder how that choice might change and bless you?

Blessings
Rev. Derek

Helping our neighbors:

Please help replenish our "Blessing Box" and Food Pantry. Suggested items are non-perishable food items - peanut butter, jelly, canned meat or pasta items, spaghetti sauce, pasta, small cereal boxes, etc. A basket is available weekly in the vestibule for donations. There is also a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the Wednesday Night Dinners. These items are used to fill the "Blessing Box", distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund, and delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen : Our next date to serve is May 14, which is Mother's Day but hunger doesn't stop for a holiday! Dates for the rest of the year are: July 30, October 15 and December 31.

2nd Harvest Food Pantry April 14th 9:00 am Faith Presbyterian Church, Indian Land

Plastic Recycling- We are continuing to collect soft plastics to earn a third bench.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - March, 2023

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Card Ministry
Evening Circle—Donation to Matsiko World Orphan Choir

Donations to:

Thornwell
Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina
Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala
The Matias Family in Brazil

Prayer Shawl Ministry

One Baby Blanket Presented
Four Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services
Pastor's Bible Study
Sounds of Grace
Matsiko World Orphan Choir

Hosted the Matsiko World Orphan Choir—Provided housing for Choir Members in Individual Homes; Supplied Meals (at Church and in Homes) and Assisted with Transportation

Hosted Tito Palacios on his Recent Visit to Rock Hill

Ministry of Care and Support

Community Support/Outreach

Food Items Collected

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry
Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

Approved One Request for Assistance

Child Development Center

Holy Week Activities

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday Sedar Meal and Service at 5:30 pm
A sign up sheet for the meal is in the narthex

Saturday, April 8 - Easter Egg Hunt at 2:00 pm

Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am , Breakfast following in Fellowship Hall
Everyone is invited to bring flowers to flower the cross
Sunday School at 9:45 am, Worship Service at 11:00 am



There will be an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Children ages 2 and up are invited. There will be a special egg hunt for middle school and high school students! We are accepting donations of plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy, small toys, coins, and such.



We have set the date for our Vacation Bible School. It will be June 26- June 29th. More information will be coming.

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve and get to know the children at church? We need volunteers to teach Children's Church during worship. We have volunteers through March. If you are interested in volunteering in April or May, please contact Susan Hibbard at sbhibbard@comporium.net or 803-322-4927. You can volunteer for a certain Sunday or for a month. Everything will be provided for you

GriefShare will meet Sunday, April 2 at 4:00 pm in the Ladies' Parlor. Will not meet on Easter.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, April 4 at 5:30 in the Ladies' Parlor

The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, April 6 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

No Wednesday Night Dinner this week. We will resume on April 12.



Catawba Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
America 250!



Marker Dedication honoring the
Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Revolutionary War Patriots

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Reception to Follow

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

RSVP April 24, 2023



Contact: Terry Parks Garrett (615) 870-9545



April Verse to Remember

**“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you.”**

Jeremiah 31:36



April Birthdays



| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Emily Darby |
| 6 | Frank Allen |
| 8 | Margaret Moore |
| 10 | Sean Goodband |
| 13 | Don Faris, Eden Shannon |
| 15 | Adley Costner |
| 22 | Preston Darby |
| 23 | Daniel Blaikie |
| 24 | Joe Forlines, Doug Blaikie |
| 25 | Billy Johnston, Jr. |
| 26 | Pat Jones |
| 28 | Todd Russell |

| | Attendance | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>Morning Worship</u> In-person | <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Online Worship Views</u> | <u>*Bible Study</u> |
| 3/5/23 | 86 | 58 | 41 | 7 |
| (Matsiko Witneess) | | | 222 | |
| 3/9/23 | | | | 17 |
| 3/12/23 | 35 | 16 | 31 | N/A |
| 3/19/23 | 52 | 27 | 31 | 16 |
| 3/26/23 | 51 | 19 | 9 | 10 |

*Bible study includes in person and on-line participation.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Christina Hibbard
Margaret Moore
Bobby Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Doris Jonas - heart
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meeks (CDC)

Marriage

Jacob Cooper and Tara Rogers, 4/1/23

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Gracie Arnold,
Esther Bailey, Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband,
Stacy Meek, Janice Meeks, Tracy Eddinger,
Elizabeth Martin, Kennedy Brown, Aliah Hagey.

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda,
Morgan Drayton, Sully Foy,
Nicholas McAteer, Alyarda Thompson,
Michael Wilkerson

In the Community and Beyond

Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Memory Jordan (Ralph & Becky's friend) lung cancer
Evelyn Williams (Donna's cousin)
Rimica Brown (former CDC employee) cancer
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband)
Regina Scarpelli & Tom Paolucci (Donna's family)
Ian (Nell Glover's grandson) injured feet at work
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
David McClellan (Darby's son-in-law Lee's uncle) cancer
Austin Oliver (Leslie Platt's nephew)
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Shelly Palmer (Leslie's cousin) Covid complication
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt) leukemia
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
Debbie Crosby (Liz's friend) coronary bypass surgery
LeAnne L (close family friend of Debbie & Ricky)
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem
Sandy Martin (Christy's stepmom) lymphoma/pet scan
Marcie McCain (Jim & Lisa's friend) starting chemo
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer
Tito Palacios' mother (pacemaker)

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Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Derek Marotta

Our Elders:

Alberta Anthony

Mark Boyd

Sarah Childers

Jimmy Darby

Cheryl Forlines

Debbie Fulmer

Susan Hibbard

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

*"For God so loved the
world that he gave his one
and only Son, that
whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have
eternal life"
John 3:16*

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