

August, 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](http://www.bethesdapres.org)  
for updates.



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

Not long ago I was invited into a conversation. The group I was speaking with wondered about ‘the soul of the nation.’ They wondered how we as the Body of Christ might be called, and equipped, to help save this soul because they all agreed that things are bad out there?

Everyone involved in this conversation agreed that the social deterioration and suffering was harming large swaths of people. They agreed that we cannot come together as a people (let alone as the Church Universal) and begin to offer helpful solutions rather than finger pointing and judgment.

I sat quietly for large parts of the meeting absorbing the wisdom of others and trying to make sense of what they were asking.

I left the meeting without a clear answer or direction; I knew I had more thinking and more considering to do before I could begin to articulate a response. Then something happened and my perspective changed. . .

A little before 10pm my phone chirped on the nightstand. I received a text. Then another one with a picture. After my initial text-response the phone rang and I had a conversation. Slowly as I listened an offer took shape. We could care for others in a new way— a new necessary way. And this is the transformational part that I was seeking from God when I left that conversation group.

Perhaps God is not asking us to “save the ‘soul of the nation.’” Perhaps that is not something that you and I can do. Indeed large scale changes and adaptations need to take place, but I don’t have the reach necessary to be effective in changing anything outside of this community.

Perhaps God asks us not to worry only about the big macro issues, but be present here. God asks us to listen to our neighbors when they are in need; when they are hungry, when they are sick. As I read my Bible it seems that Jesus is less interested in large scale changes initially in the world. Certainly they would happen as the name of Jesus was preached and the gospel spread.

I suspect that Jesus was more interested in going to the home of a father whose child was dying, or stooping down to hold the hand of a woman who society deemed an outcast. Jesus was more interested in sitting beside a well and having a good conversation with a scorned child of God rather than stand on the sidelines of life and judge what he witnessed.

The Savior preferred to share a meal with friends and weep with the grieving. He preferred to embrace the littlest of the world and called the sinners to climb down from their trees and enjoy being together.

Maybe that is how we “save the soul of the nation?” We care for them in our little corner of McConnells Highway just outside of York. Maybe that is enough and maybe that is what God calls for?

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:** Thank you to Esther Bailey, Jim & Lisa Percival, Ernice Bookout, Will and Logan Johnston and Lane Russell who served at Covenant this past Sunday. 125 meals were served. Dates for the rest of the year are October 15 and December 31.

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

Second Harvest Food Pantry Dates

August 11 – Cedar Grove AME Zion Church, 2443 E. Chappell Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29730

September 8 – St. Paul UMC – Clover & Kings Mt. Chapel UMC, 1130 Philbeck Rd., York 29745

October 13 – Jerusalem Baptist, 435 Farris Rd., Clover, SC 29710

November 10 – Hermon Presbyterian, 107 Heckle Blvd., Rock Hill, SC 29730

December 8 – Faith Presbyterian, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC 29707

### **Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - July, 2023**

#### **Presbyterian Women:**

Card Ministry

#### **Donations to:**

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Presented Three Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans

#### **Online Ministry**

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

#### **Ministry of Care and Support**

*Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Members*

#### **Community Support/Outreach**

*Food Items*

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

*Food Distribution*

Hosted Food Distribution on three dates and Provided 234 bags/boxes of food to 143 households, serving a total of 405 household members

Prepared and Served Dinner at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant Presbyterian Church

#### **Benevolence Fund**

#### **Child Development Center**

*Thank you!!*

Note from Thornwell

Dear friends at Bethesda Presbyterian, Thank you so much for your recent gift to Thornwell & continued support. We are so grateful to call you friends in ministry. Thank you for walking alongside us as we change lives, support families in our communities, & share the love of Jesus with others by our actions. We are blessed to call you friends in ministry.

Blessings, Rebecca Cox

The Fellowship Hall will be closed on Tuesday, August 1 through Wednesday, August 2 for floor stripping, cleaning and drying. This had been postponed from last week.

The Bethesda CDC is looking for Teacher Assistants for our program—Applicants must be 18 years old with a high school diploma. Applicants must be available Monday-Friday until 5:45. Experience driving a 15 passenger bus for school pickup would be a plus! For more information please contact the daycare at 803-328-0149 and ask for Cindy or Dawn.

August Verse to Remember

**“Whoever believes in (God) will not perish  
but have everlasting life.”**

**John 3:16b**



## August Birthdays



1	Asa Darby, Chay Williamson, Seth Williamson
4	Darius Alexander
9	Tamara Rockholt
10	Peggy Adkins
11	Jim Bell
14	Hildegard Bell, JD Hibbard
15	Tiffany Chambers
17	Shannon Freeman
21	Abby Costner, David Chambers
22	Ashlyn Dexter, Lisa Faris
23	Betty Jo Alexander, Rebecca Simpson

	Attendance	
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>
7/3/23	37	26
7/9/23	32	14
7/16/23	48	22
7/23/23	36	26

# Remember in Prayer

## At Bethesda

Sarah Russell  
Ed Williamson  
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)  
Hildegard Bell  
Luke Johnson (back surgery, 5/9/23)

**Deaths** - Johnnie Love Jackson, 7/22/23  
James Lambert, 7/22/23  
Rodney Gantt (Edie's nephew) 7/24/23  
Kathy Threatt Boyd, 7/25/23

## At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Esther Bailey,  
Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband, Stacy Meek, Janice  
Meeks, Tracy Eddinger, Elizabeth Martin, Aliah Hagy,  
Natalie Ashe, Genevieve Herrington, Emily Hopkins.

## Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and  
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

## In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda,  
Pierce Dewey, Sully Foy,  
Nicholas McAteer, Gage Orr,  
Michael Wilkerson

## In the Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes  
Bill Hibbard (Wes' brother) broken hip & pelvis due to accident  
Muriel Jones (Cheryl's sister-in-law) pancreatic cancer  
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)  
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)  
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)  
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)  
Memory Jordan (Ralph & Becky's friend) lung cancer  
Evelyn Williams (Donna's cousin)  
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)  
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband)  
Regina Scarpelli & Tom Paolucci (Donna's family)  
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery  
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory  
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  
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia  
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)  
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem  
Marcie McCain (Jim & Lisa's friend) starting chemo  
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer  
Celeste Burns (son, Brantley Nichols died of drug overdose)  
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-worker)  
Abbie So (19 yr. old friend of Emma Marotta) heart failure  
Tommy Harper (Sarah's dad)  
James David (David Chamber's grandson)

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

## **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