

July 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*

With the onset of summer, church programming often slows down. Families and friends travel on vacations attempting make, and uphold, memories that will be passed on through families in years to come.

Now that our local school systems are implementing a new calendar structure for students, the need for those core-memory-times become even more pressing. Before we know it our children will be ‘out of the house’ building their own families and their own memories—and for our purpose today, they will be building their own stories to share.

When the church calendar slows down a bit, an opportunity arises in each of us. We have the chance to examine the story that we share about Bethesda with our community. We can share with them the good things that God is doing here.

Stories shape us; they define us. Our stories help reinforce beliefs and behaviors regardless of whether the story is positive or negative. A story is more than a tool to communicate information, a story helps define us. In our church, each story that is shared becomes an opportunity either grow the narrative of how God is active at Bethesda, or it can also speak about how God is not active here. The choice is ours and it is based in large part on how we share our stories.

Susan Beaumont, whose work in church leadership has helped move the church through the pandemic and out into their community, wrote these words for us:

“In spinning its stories, a congregation makes meaning out of its environment.”

That is a powerful statement when we think about how the story of Bethesda impacts this community. But Susan does not stop at that point. She continues by citing Thomas Boomershire who says: *“Story is a primary language of experience. Telling and listening to a story has the same structure as our experience. One of the ways we know each other is by telling our stories.”*

And so I wonder about what stories are you sharing about God’s presence at Bethesda. We all appreciate and love to notice the sign hanging over the church door that says, “as you leave this place you enter the mission field.” We readily affirm this truth, but I wonder how are we living into that missional call by sharing our stories with our community?

Indeed there are negative stories at every church, but the challenge and the danger lies in letting those negative stories shape how we encounter and engage our community. So perhaps as you have some time with family and friends, notice the stories you share. . . Perhaps you might find a chance to share the story of how God is at work at Bethesda?

Susan Beaumont, *Giants and Grasshoppers: Stories that Frame Congregational Anxiety*. found in, *Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change*, Larry Goldman, ed. Rowman & Litterfield: Lanham, 2010, p. 95. Emphasis added.

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: Dates for the rest of the year are: July 30, October 15 and December 31.

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

Second Harvest Food Pantry Dates

9:00 am July 14 – Faith Presbyterian Church, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC 29707

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 - June 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

Four Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Community Support/Outreach

Food Items

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

One Request for Assistance Approved

Vacation Bible School

Child Development Center

Thank you!!

Bethesda church family – Thank you so much for the beautiful handmade afghan and prayer card keepsake you sent for baby Chase (grandson of Pam McKinney.) That took so much time and talent to make, and I assure you we will treasure it, & keep the prayer card in his baby book. Also, we appreciate you keeping us on the prayer list during our stay at Levine's. He has made tremendous gains & improvements & doing fantastic! We know prayers is powerful! Again, we appreciate the love you have shown.

Pam & our family! Kristi, Dustin & Chase Bradford

Dear Bethesda PC friends, Thank you so much for your recent gift & continued support. The love you all have for serving is inspiring. Thanks to your generous hearts great things are happening at Thornwell! Lives are being changed, families strengthened, & love & care are shared with all. Thank you!

Rebecca Boland Cox

July Verse to Remember

“Live as people who are free not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but live as servants of God.”

1 Peter 2:16



July Birthdays



2	Grant Barton
4	Elizabeth Bull, Jill Carter, Kathy Jagers
5	Julie Cornwell
6	Gage Russell
7	Krystal Jordan
11	Ed Williamson
14	Kari Darby
16	Daisy Hinline
17	Carolyn Rockholt
19	Anita Coxton
20	Stacy Russell
21	Matthew Hudson, Marvin Johnson, Kelsey Simpson
22	Gayle Dickson
23	Holly Love
28	Cindy Davis
29	Donna Hagler

	Attendance	
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>
6/4/23	40	21
6/11/23	51	29
6/18/23	40	27
6/25/23	57	22

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)

Death - David McClellan, 6/13/23
Sandy Martin, 6/26/23

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)
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
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

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

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

*"So if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed."*

John 8:36

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