

March 2023



Bethesda Banner

A number of years ago I was first introduced to the writing of Wendell Berry as I worked on my doctorate at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

For those who are unfamiliar with Berry's writing, he focuses a great deal of time on helping his reader re-capture a life in their community regardless of what that community resembles.

His conclusions, while written to defend life in the countryside and keep society away from over-utilizing technology, are applicable to life of the larger church universal.

We strive to listen to the voice of God in our context here at Bethesda and share with others how we have come to trust that voice.

As we continue to listen to each other, and listen to the voice of God, the ideas of Wendell Berry can be helpful. In his essay *Economy and Pleasure*, he writes these words for us:

“And so the colleges of agriculture, interested though they are to serve the rural home and rural life, give themselves over to the historical rhetoric of “change,” “the future,” “the frontiers of modern science,” “competition,” “the competitive edge,” “the cutting edge,” “the early adoption,” and the like, as if there is nothing worth learning from the past and nothing worth preserving in the present. . . . Community however, aspires towards stability. It strives to balance change with constancy. That is why community life places such high value on neighborly love, local loyalty, the integrity and continuity of family life, respect for the old, and the instruction of the young.”

As you might imagine, I believe that Berry is correct in his above statement as it relates to our work here at Bethesda. God has presented our church with an opportunity to serve and care for others. God asks us to build community through deliberate choices of listening and dwell with others. We can indeed move away from *“the historical rhetoric”* and embrace the role and nature of community building as God passed it on to us.

As I shop in preparation for the Matsiko choir, and wait in line with my basket full, or even if I just listen to the radio, I hear people express feelings of isolation and competing on the loss of community as have come to define it. They want what they had but cannot find a way back. But again, we have the chance as the church to *‘balance change with constancy.’* We have the opportunity to remain resolute in our thinking and our caring for other people through our deliberate choices and meaningful actions.

I wonder what the church will become, and what its ministry will look like, when we apply Berry's words to our ministry here at Bethesda?

Blessings,
Rev. Derek

Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry* (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2002), 211-12.

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*

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 : 125 guest were served on Sunday, February 19. Thank you to the following who came to serve: Debbie Darby and her grandchildren, Reese, Alona and Cade; Beckett Hall; Peggy Adkins; Ricky and Debbie Simpson; Esther Bailey; Liz Blackwell and Sarah Childers

Our next date to serve is May 14.

2nd Harvest Food Pantry 9:00 am March 10, 2023 at Unity Presbyterian, 303 Tom Hall St., Fort Mill

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

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - February, 2023

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

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

One Baby Blanket Presented

Two Lap Afghans Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Community Support/Outreach

Prepared Served Dinner at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant Presbyterian Church

Food Items Collected

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

Scouting Ministry

Celebrated of Fifty-Three Years of Scouting at Bethesda with a Special Worship Service, Court of Honor Presenting, Three Eagle Scouts, and Luncheon, Recognizing Past and Present Leaders and the 48 Eagle Scouts

Child Development Center

Thank you!

Thank you so much for the beautiful baby blanket for Cohen. May God bless each one of you.

Blessings,

Marlien Hudson

Thank you for the afghan given to my son, Bobby. He is unable to distinguish the colors, but he feels the warmth provided through the Prayer Shawl Ministry. May God continue to bless this ministry.

Margaret Moore

Dear Bethesda Presbyterian Friends in Christ, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your recent donation and long-time support you've shown Thornwell through the years! Your gifts not only provide a safe, loving place for our youth to live, grow and heal - they also save them from the dangers of abuse and neglect.

Thank you for saving a place for children and families in your hearts - we are grateful! I look forward to continuing to work together in this ministry.

Blessings,

Rebecca Cox

My dear Christian friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful afghan. Also, for all the prayers. I love the afghan and I appreciate it and the prayers so much. You touched my heart. Blessed are those who give of themselves. Thank you again for the love and thoughtfulness ya'll have shown to me.

Love in Christ,

Debbie Crosby

Dear Bethesda Family,

Debbie and I wanted to personally thank you for the prayer shawl you gave to my daughter and son-in-law after the birth of our grandson, Rory.

The prayer shawl committee is a wonderful way to show Christ's love. Bethesda has been such a blessing in our lives. We thank God everyday for our church and the wonderful people of the church.

Thank you so much for all the love and support we have received.

We love you all!!

Yours in Christ,

Bobby & Debbie Fulmer

What's Happening at Bethesda?

Matsiko Orphan Choir will perform during worship on March 5 and again at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Evening Circle will meet Monday, March 6 in the Session Room at 6:00 pm.

Chimes practice on Monday, March 6 in the Ladies' Parlor. For more information contact LaRayne.

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Note the new time.

Dr. Tito Palacios will join us for dinner on Wednesday March 8. Come hear about the ministry of La Mision in Guatemala.

The 2023 Bethesda Talent Show will be held on March 18 in the Family Life Center. A spaghetti dinner will be served at 5:30 followed by the talent show. Start working on your talent now! A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or contact Sarah Childers or Jim Percival with questions.

The Property Committee is planning to have a Church Workday on Saturday, March 25 from 9:00 am to 12:00.

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 shibbard@comporium.net or 803-322-4927. You can volunteer for a certain Sunday or for a month. Everything will be provided for you.

March Verse to Remember

**Lent is a time of reflection. Paul advises,
"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the
faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about
yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed
you fail to meet the test"!**

2 Corinthians 13:5



March Birthdays



3	Alan Smith, Sr., Lisa Percival
4	Eddie Nettles
5	Christina Hibbard
6	Lane Russell, Jennifer Marotta
7	Joni Walker
9	Mills Sharpe
18	Charles Williamson IV
19	Conor Goodband, Anne Caveny
22	Irvin Jones
25	Katie Burns, Ainsley Darby, III
27	Dorothy Williamson
28	Steven Dickson, Jr.
29	Chad Russell
31	Karen Boyd, Easton Pennington

	November Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship Views</u>	<u>*Bible Study</u>
2/5/23	119	28	17	12
2/12/23	41	23	36	15
2/19/23	61	21	12	
2/22/23 Ash Wednesday	43			
2/26/23	53	31	26	9

*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)
Lily Hull (Nettles)

Deaths

Vivian Fulmer, 2/15/23, mother of Bobby Fulmer

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

Wes & Whitley Teter
Regina Scarpelli & Tom Paolucci (Donna's extended family)
Delores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) new heart problem
Noah Smith Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Debbie Crosby (Liz's friend) coronary bypass surgery)
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter's family)
LeAnne L (close family friend of Debbie and Ricky)
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Rimica Brown (former CDC employee) cancer
Evelyn Williams (Donna's cousin)
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt, leukemia)
Memory Jordan (Ralph & Becky's friend) lung cancer
Shelly Palmer (Leslie's cousin) covid complications
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)

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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

*"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