

October, 2023



Bethesda Banner

As we begin October there is a great deal happening around Bethesda that we should remember and we can celebrate. Not only has the fall programming taken root again, but new programs, new benefits, new ministries also are flourishing—and this excites me and I hope it does you also.

For we have listened, we have discerned, and we have responded to how we hear God at work around us. We have asked questions of each other and together we have grown. And as we have witnessed and participated in this work, it has brought us great joy and a deeper sense of God's abiding presence.

But as this work is coming to its completion, is it truly over? Has our faithfulness to the revelation of God come to the end point of ministry at Bethesda? Is it time to sit back and take in some of the fruit of our labor?

Certainly we would not affirm the idea of resting on what has been done before. We believe God is still calling us onward and causing us to wonder. Where are we being called to serve next? What does that call look like? There is plenty of work to be done in the mission fields of York, McConnells, and Rock Hill. But where do we go from here and how do we find guidance from the Lord? It is a question that leadership in this church, and I hope you, have been asking and considering.

Perhaps the place to wonder more fully about this is in God's Word.

Darrell L. Guder, one of the first voices in the church to explain missional theology says this to the church and we consider what happens next:

"[The Bible] tells the story of God's action in human history in the form of testimony. . . The good news about God is rooted in a particular history. . . Through the particular encounter of God with Israel, the good news that God is loving and purposeful enters into human history and becomes knowable."

God is knowable to us as we study and consider God's word. At the same time, God is revealed to us in His Word in our future. And while clarity about who God is, and what God is doing is beyond us, we can discern from the Lord how we are called.

We can come alongside of God's revelation in scripture and wonder what lessons does His Word teach us that could help shape our response and ministry? How do the Biblical characters and their stories help us to see the next area of our mission field?

One of the primary ways to consider and contemplate this idea is through the work of testimony; through story-sharing and story-telling. For that is also a part of the Biblical narrative that we read. When God moves among His people, they talk about it to others. They share that revelation with others.

And so as we think about what happens next in October, maybe find one person to tell the story of how God has been at work at Bethesda. Then listen and see what God says next.

Darrell L. Guder, *The Continuing Conversion of the Church* (Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, 2000), 29.

Blessings,
Derek

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: Bethesda will serve at Covenant on October 15 from 2 pm until 6 pm. You come for part of the time or the whole time. The next date to serve is December 31.

Plastic Recycling- We have collected enough plastics for our third bench! It will be delivered and assembled soon. We will continue to collect plastics for our fourth bench.

Second Harvest Food Pantry Dates

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 - September

Presbyterian Women's Circle:

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 Two Lap Afghans

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Community Support/Outreach

Community Worship Service

Joined with Mt. Zion Baptist Church in a Community Worship Service at Bethesda

Fundraiser

Hosted a Fundraiser for Junie Nivens, a Community Member in need of a liver transplant; Fundraiser included craft fair, live music, bake sale, food trucks, silent auction and inflatables

Food Items

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Food Distribution

Hosted a Food Distribution and Provided 88 bags/boxes of food to 28 households, serving a total of 58 household members

Benevolence Fund

Child Development Center

Happening this week:

Tuesday, October 3 - Prayer Shawl Ministry, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 4 - Choir Practice, 5:30 pm; Wednesday Night Dinner, 6:30 pm

Thursday, October 5 - Morning Circle, 10 am, Fellowship Hall; Bible Study, 6 pm, Session Room

Saturday, October 7 - PW Fall Gathering, 8:30 am, First Presbyterian, York

Providence Presbyterian Women's Fall Spiritual Gathering will be [October 7, 2023](#), at York First Presbyterian Church. Registration and breakfast starts at 8:30 am. Program starts at 9:30.

Speaker will be Rev. Cecelia Armstrong.



Introduction to Hand Chimes: If anyone is interested in learning to play hand chimes, I am planning to hold a 2-session class that will teach you the basics for playing hand chimes. It will be on Monday, October 9 and Monday, October 16. Both classes will start at 6:30 in the Ladies Parlor. This is for anyone who has never played chimes before or would like to refresh your skills. We need at least 4 ringers in order to experience chime ringing. Please let me know if you would like to attend. LaRayne larayneha@gmail.com; text or call at 803-554-4705 or in person.

Music Ministry Opportunities

Our Christmas Worship Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 17 during our 11:00 worship service. We need voices and hand chimers. Adult choir will begin work on Christmas music on Wednesday, October 11 at 5:30 in the choir room. We really need some more voices added to our regular singers and hope some of you can help us. The hand chimes will begin rehearsal for the Christmas Worship Service on Monday, October 23 at 6:30 in the Ladies Parlor. We need 12 ringers and hope that everyone that has played in the past as well as anyone new to ringing will come. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at larayneha@gmail.com, call or text me at 803-554- 4705 or just talk to me. Hope to see you at choir rehearsal and/or at chime ringing rehearsal

October Verse to Remember

**"The fear of the LORD leads to life, but whoever
has it rests satisfied: he who has it
will not be visited by harm."**

Proverbs 19: 23.

Thank You!!

I thank God for the blessings received from members of Bethesda Church during Bobby's illness and death: prayers, phone calls, cards and food. May God continue to bless the ministry of Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Margaret Moore

This note is presented to the Bethesda Presbyterian Church family with love and gratitude. Again, thank you and a shout out to Mrs. Alberta Anthony.

Duane Barnett and Family

My devotional this morning was a reminder that there is a difference between praise and thanks, with praise focusing solely on God and who He is; while thankful means to be conscious of benefits received. Ed and I are thankful to all who responded to our need for help last week, and we praise God for such a caring church family. We certainly have received benefits through your time, calls, visits, delicious meals, and certainly your prayers. To God be the glory.

Ed and Dorothy Williamson

A huge Thank You to everyone who helped in any way or participated in the Fundraiser on Saturday. It was a great day! To God be ALL the Glory!!

Another opportunity to serve our community:

October 9-13th, Bethesda will be feeding the children on Daves Road. York schools will be out for the week and we are taking this opportunity to feed the community. We will need volunteers everyday to make bag lunches, to serve, set up, and clean up. More info to come.



October Birthdays



5	Gloria Ballard
6	Anita Ferguson
9	Cecilia Alexander
10	Coleman Medlin
11	Carolann Bull
14	Trudy Amick, Matthew McAteer, Nicolas McAteer, Jim Percival, Justin McAteer
17	John Nettles, Jr.
19	Josh Stallard
21	Bill Davis
22	Bert Anthony
24	Caitlin Hibbard
26	Steve Dickson, Tom Bull
29	Trey Amick
31	Julia Dover

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study</u>
9/3/23	30	19	16	15
9/10/23	103	21	41	13
9/17/23	47	25	18	13
9/24/23	60	23	18	11

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Cecilia Alexander
Margaret Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meek (CDC)
Janice Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell
Luke Johnson (back surgery, 5/9/23)
Edward & Dorothy Williamson
Eddie Smith

Deaths - Family and friends of Frances Adams (Ralph's mother) 9/14/23

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, Emily Hopkins, Shelby Ashe..

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Mike Williams
Griffin (Marotta's nephew Axton's 11 year old friend)
Cheryl Hughes
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
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
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)

In the Military:

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

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

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