

October, 2021

Bethesda Banner



My dear friends,

I want to thank all of you for the many ways you allowed me to be your pastor. As time goes by I will look back fondly on our time together; I trust the same will be true for you.

During these last years I've watched children grow up. I've baptized, performed marriages, performed too many funerals. I've visited hospitals and shut-ins. Together, we lived through a terrible pandemic and persevered.

While I am leaving you, there is one who remains constant: Jesus Christ. Jesus has been here from the beginning, and will be with you for the rest of time. If through the power of the Holy Spirit you allow Jesus to guide this wonderful church you will always have a mission. It may not look like the church we have **today**. There may be difficult decisions which need to be made. But a passion for our Lord and Savior will see you through all your future trials. This passion guided the earlier congregations of Bethesda, a passion which allowed them to navigate their own trials. They managed and flourished; so will you.

Ahead of you there will be both joys and trials. The Biblical record is full of stories about people who faced trials. A few times the people of Israel were exiled from their land; every time they returned. When Elijah was on the run from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel he prayed, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too."

The Lord heard Elijah's prayer and encouraged him with these words: "I have preserved those who remain in Israel, totaling seven thousand—all those whose knees haven't bowed down to Baal and whose mouths haven't kissed him." When Elijah had done the math it looked to him like it was all over. God's math was different from Elijah's. God made a way where there was no way, and God will do it again for people who have faith. So when the trials come, remember that we serve a God who always makes a way.

I know that you have a wonderful future ahead of you. The PNC has prayed, trusted God, and have found the person who is going to be your new pastor. With his faith and leadership I am confident that you will be able to reach out and make a real difference in people's lives. My love and prayers will always be with you.

God Bless,

Doug

**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*

The Session met on September 12th. All members were present except for one. The monthly financial report and committee reports were received as information.

The Congregational Nominating Committee informed the Session that they had selected four nominees to present to the congregation for approval of office of Elder for the class of 2024. Nominees are Bert Anthony, Mark Boyd, Cheryl Forlines, and Johnny Walker.

The Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC) made a report and requested the Session call a congregational on October 3rd so a candidate for the next installed pastor of Bethesda could be presented to the congregation.

The Session voted to call a Congregational Meeting on October 3rd for the purpose of electing four new Elders and receiving a report from the PNC.

The Worship Committee informed the Session that Communion would be served on October 3rd, World Communion Sunday.

The following motions were brought before the session for actions.

The church has received a financial request from “Reach Beyond Borders” asking for financial assistance for our mission partner Dr. Tito. It has been learned that D. Tito has some financial challenges and help is being requested for support. Elder Sarah Childers made a motion for the Session to use unused money in our mission travel budget to assist this cause. The Session **unanimously agreed** to use two thousand dollars from this fund to assist Dr. Tito.

The property Committee made the following motions”

Request for money beyond their budget for removal and installation of carpet in the Session room. The Session **APPROVED** two thousand dollars for this purpose. (*This does not include the cost of purchasing the carpet.*)

Request to not replace the portraits of the previous pastors on the session room wall after restoration of the session room, but instead to put them in a photo album. After discussion this **motion was tabled**.

Request for permission to dispose of and replace the existing session room chairs and a request for money beyond their budget to purchase new chairs. The Session **APPROVED** fifteen hundred dollars for the purchase of new chairs.

The Session **APPROVED** an update to the Manual of Operations for the conduct of electronic / virtual meetings.

New Business.

The Session agreed to add one new person to the list of people authorized by the Session to carry a concealed weapon in the church. The Session removed one name from this list. There are currently only three individuals authorized by the Session to have a concealed weapon on the premises during times of worship.

John Nettles
Clerk of Session
September 27, 2021



October is Dimes for Hunger Month:

During the month of October Bethesda will be collecting contributions for Dimes for Hunger. This program began in Providence Presbytery in 1977 when many people in our area lost jobs as most of the textile mills closed. Many of these families struggled to provide food for their families. Several mission-minded leaders in our Presbytery developed a plan: ask each member in each of the churches to give One Dime - Per Meal - Per Day for the month of October for a total of \$9.30. The Offering would be used to help provide food for our neighbors who were hungry.

Over the years Dimes for Hunger has grown to include global missions. Half of the money raised goes to help buy food for ministries in the five counties that make up Providence Presbytery and half goes to global ministries in Honduras, Guatemala and Malawi.

Dimes for Hunger money is sent to La Mision in Guatemala. Dr. Tito and his team use these funds to buy food for many families in the villages they minister in. Bethesda has had teams that have gone to Guatemala to work alongside Dr. Tito and his team.

Bethesda also volunteers at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant Presbyterian once a quarter. Plentiful Harvest Kitchen is one of the ministries that Dimes for Hunger supports.

There are still many in need of food in our area. ***Let's save our CHANGE, so we can give our CHANGE, so we can do more to CHANGE the lives of those who are hungry here at home and farther away.***



Halloween Activity for the Children

Plans are underway for a Halloween Activity for the children to be held outdoors at Bethesda on Saturday, October 30. More information will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, we will need donations of candy and small seasonal items. Please place your donations in the bin outside the Christian Education office in the Sunday School Building.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, October 5 at 6:00 pm in the Ladies' Parlor. All levels are welcome - never crocheted, beginner to expert! This is a wonderful ministry and lots of fun.

Congregational Life:

The Congregational Life Committee will meet this Sunday, October 3, at 4:30 in the Family Life Center. Anyone interested in the life and ministry of the Bethesda is invited to join us.

Christian Education:

The Christian Education Committee will meet this Sunday, October 3, at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

The Benevolence Ministry provides assistance to those in the community in immediate need of emergency financial assistance. This Sunday, October 3rd, in coordination with Communion, is designated as Benevolence Giving Sunday. Please be generous in replenishing our resources for those in desperate situations.

Feed the Hungry: Mobile Food Pantry Sites for October, 2021

October 8: Union Baptist Church, 1195 Handsmill Highway, Rock Hill

Thank you in advance for your assistance with these pantries.

Questions? Call Catawba Area Agency on Aging. 803-329-9670.



Sunday School classes have resumed. Classes meet at 9:45 am each Sunday morning. Come join us - there is something for everyone!

The Bethesda CDC is looking for (3) Teacher Assistants for our fall program - (1) full-time and (2) part-time. Applicants must be 18 years old with a high school diploma and have at least 6 months of experience in a licensed or registered Child Care Center. Applicants must be available Monday through 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.

Verse to Remember:

" Blessed be the name of God, forever and ever. He knows all, does all: He changes seasons and guides history."

Daniel 2:20 The Message

A God who knows all and does all is truly God,
The seasons may change, but God does not!



October Birthdays



- 2 Connor Brown, Jerred Mitchell
- 6 Anita Ferguson, Doug McCall
- 9 Cecelia Alexander
- 10 Coleman Medlin
- 11 Carolann Bull, Emily Medley
- 13 Samantha Teska
- 14 Trudy Amick, Justin McAteer, Matthew McAteer,
Nicolas McAteer, Jimmy Percival
- 17 John Nettles, Jr.
- 19 Michelle Plott, Josh Stallard
- 21 Bill Davis
- 22 Bert Anthony
- 24 Caitlin Hibbard
- 26 Tom Bull, Steve Dickson
- 29 Trey Amick
- 31 Julia Dover

September Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School
9/5/21	45	27
9/12/21	41	28
9/19/21	39	25
9/26/21	26	20

Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, flowers, food and prayers since my back surgery on the 1st of September. It is such a blessing to know that my church family cares and is continuing to pray for my recovery. Thank you so much. Edie Nettles

Thanks for all the concerns and prayers. Rebecca Fulmer has recovered and is released to return to work. The Lord be praised. Bobby

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Edie Nettles (back surgery)
Ina Oates
Krystal Jordan
Frank Allen
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
Ruth Rawdon (back surgery)

Deaths:

Rick Smoak, 9/5/21
Father, 9/8/21 & sister, 9/6/21 of Shannon Freeman

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God."*

Philippians 4:6

In the Community and Beyond

Randy Ransom
Sharon Gable
Blakely Percival
John Blaikie (hip replacement)
Jim Hodnett
Connie Waldrop
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Sturgis (Percival's friend) pancreatic cancer
John Rogers (Tara's dad)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Sawyer Long (Jeff & Kim Parrish's 6 week old grandson) cancer
Ottis Wagner
Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Ed Beam (Cecelia Alexander's brother-in-law)
Ellen Green
Scott McDaniel (Bill Dover's son-in-law)
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Barbara Good (Debbie Darby's mother)
Kathy Gale (Debbie Simpson's friend)
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)
Doris Duncan (Christine McCraven's mother) ALS
Bryan Good (Debbie Darby's brother)
Eddie Gregory (cancer)
Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)
Jessie Mitchell (Childers' friend) cancer
Linda Strauss (Eddie & Nancy Smith's friend, stage 4 cancer)

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Trudy Amick

Ernice Bookout

Sarah Childers

Jimmy Darby

Bobby Fulmer

Susan Hibbard

Irvin Jones

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Todd Russell

Debbie Simpson

Dorothy Williamson

*"While the earth remaineth, seedtime
and harvest, and cold and heat, and
summer and winter, and day and
night shall not cease."*

Genesis 8:22

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:

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Interim Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Karen Percival

Sexton - Donna Hagler