



The Bethesda Banner



One Spirit ~ Many Gifts

Volume XXXV Issue Three

March 2010

From the Pastor:

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life... John 14:6

Jesus made a bold claim: that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Last month I wrote about the Way. Now we continue with the Truth.

We are not born knowing the Truth, but we are born with a longing for it deep inside our souls. In one way or another, everyone is searching for the Truth. But where do we look? There are some who say there is no one version of the Truth. Instead, there are many different truths, and each person must find his or her own truth. What is true for one might not be true for another. If you follow that logic, it makes it easier to deal with the competing truth claims of all the different world religions, for instance.

But there is a problem with that logic. Jesus, at the center of the Christian faith, never taught that kind of multiple-truth philosophy. Instead, he was quite clear- he is the Truth. That means that all other teachings and truth claims are measured against him. He is the Standard, because he alone is the unadulterated Truth.

For a believer, that is wonderful news for two reasons. First, it means we know the way to satisfy that deep longing inside our souls. Jesus is meant to be the one who fills that void in our hearts, so we don't have to throw other junk into a gap that only Jesus is meant to fill. And second, it means that we have a standard by which to judge all other truth claims. How do you assess the value of the latest self-help book, nugget of Oprah-wisdom, or even the claims of another world religion? You place it beside the real Truth, and in the light of him, all that is false will fall away.

Jesus is the Truth! We don't have to look any further.

To God Alone be Glory,

Pastor Daniel

A Word about Lent

The word *lent* is from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten* which means *spring* or the *springtime*. Literally, it means the time of the year when the days *lengthen*. In the church, Lent is the 40 day period during which Christians rededicate themselves to follow Jesus Christ as His faithful disciples, and prepare to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at Easter. Many Christians vow to give up things (like desserts, TV or Facebook) during Lent so that when they desire those things, they are reminded of their relationship with the Lord. Other Christians choose to take up something (like daily prayer or acts of kindness) during Lent to strengthen their faith.

This Month's Anniversaries

Mar	3	Betty & Ray Johnson
	4	Cecelia & Darius Alexander
	9	Kim & Kevin Walker
	20	Robin & Hill Muse
	22	Kim & Mark Mitchell
	27	Amy & Bobby Bolin
	29	Nell & Roy Glover

This Month's Birthdays

Mar	1	Mason McCraven
	3	Alan Smith, Sr Madison Dunphy Caroline Avery Miller Richard Meek David Trevor Rayborn
	4	Eddie Nettles Harrison Laney Allen
	6	Lane Thomas Russell
	7	Robin Muse Joni Walker James K Williams
	8	Charles Johnson
	9	Mills Warren Sharpe
	10	Lauren Smoak
	12	Jason Melton David Nettles Clara Bell Snavely Jackson Williams
	13	Trevor Coxton
	14	Catherine Bookout Linda Jenkins
	17	Sam McAteer
	18	Charles Williamson Brooke Porter
	19	Conner Goodband Jamie Robinson
	20	Natalie Ashe
	21	Karen Boyd
	24	Emma Westmoreland Brice Hunsucker
	25	Ainsley Darby Tommy Nance
	26	Meagan Bolin
	27	Dorothy Williamson
	28	Steven Dickson, Jr
	29	Chad Russell
	31	Jerry Dickson, Jr

Notes of Thanks

Dear Bethesda Friends, Many, many thanks for all the cards, visits, prayers and love you have shown us during Harold's back surgery and his recovery. We hope to be back in church soon. We also deeply appreciate the many, many cards (67) you sent for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. They meant so much. God Bless All of You.

The Harold Walker Family

Dear members of Bethesda,
What a loving and caring church family you are. During my recent surgery and recovery you have showered me with your prayers and get well cards and wishes and I have felt strengthened because of them. I thank God for the support that you have shown to me and to Daniel, Amy, Andrew and Lauren. I hope to be back at Bethesda Pres. soon so that I can thank you personally.

With love,
Susan Smoak (Daniel's mom)

I would like to thank Daniel and the congregation for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and concern during this "journey" for me, my Mom and my family. The Lord continues to comfort my family and me with His peace, surrounds us with His love and encourages us with His presence. Having all of this helps to make this "journey" much easier. He is a "stronghold" in my life.

Patt Lauckner

Presbyterian Women Retreat-- More Than a Glass of Sweet Tea

The Presbyterian Women of Bethesda will sponsor its sixth spiritual retreat on March 20 in the Fellowship Hall. The theme this year is "The Gift of Hospitality." Come and experience this special time of hospitality from the registration at 9:30 a.m. until the soup lunch is finished about 1:00 p.m. There will be plenty of fun, fellowship, food and, of course, inspiration. Our own Amy Smoak will lead a study on Biblical teachings regarding hospitality, so bring your Bible. A representative from Family Promise will share what that organization and its network does to provide hospitality to homeless families. There will be limited child care, but reservations of each child's name, age, phone number, and parent(s) name must be made by contacting Meredith Killian (803-980-8497) before March 14. Donations of paper products and cleaning supplies to Family Promise will be collected. There is no cost, but cash donations will be accepted to help defray cost. Please mark March 20, 2010, from 9:30 until 1:00 on your calendars and bring your mom, your sisters, your cousins, your neighbors, and all your friends. This event is very informal, very informative, and very hospitable. We promise more than a glass of sweet tea.



Wonderful Wednesdays during Lent:

Back to the Basics

The Protestant Reformation began with a recovery of 5 basic theological truths. Grounded in Scripture, these truths are the foundation of the Christian faith, but sadly, we don't understand their meaning very well anymore. Today, God is calling the church to return to Him and these central truths. During the 5 Wednesdays of Lent, Pastor Daniel and Elder John Nettles will lead us through a study of:

Christ Alone Scripture Alone Grace Alone
Faith Alone To God Alone Be the Glory

Join us for the covered dish supper at 6:00 or come at 6:30 for the study. Youth and Children's activities are also planned from 6:30-7:15.



March Daily Bible Readings

Following this daily Bible reading schedule will take you through the Bible in a year.

1	Hebrews 1-3	17	Joshua 1-3
2	Hebrews 4-6	18	Joshua 4-6
3	Hebrews 7-8	19	Joshua 7-9
4	Hebrews 9-10	20	Joshua 10-12
5	Hebrews 11-13	21	Joshua 13-15
6	Deuteronomy 1-3	22	Joshua 16-17
7	Deuteronomy 4-6	23	Joshua 18-20
8	Deuteronomy 7-9	24	Joshua 21-22
9	Deuteronomy 10-12	25	Joshua 23-24
10	Deuteronomy 13-15	26	Luke 1-3
11	Deuteronomy 16-18	27	Luke 4-6
12	Deuteronomy 19-21	28	Luke 7-9
13	Deuteronomy 22-24	29	Luke 10-12
14	Deuteronomy 25-27	30	Luke 13-15
15	Deuteronomy 28-31	31	Luke 16-18
16	Deuteronomy 32-34		

New Reader?? We invite you to Come Visit Us!! We are so glad that you picked up this publication. We hope you will find it interesting, provocative and worth your time. If you are not a member of any church, please take the next step and worship with us, any Sunday, at 11:00 am. We are a growing, active community with friendly people, and we will welcome you without any "pressure." Or, please call us at (803) 328-1360 or visit our website at www.bethesdapres.org for more information and to let us know how to respond to your needs.

Recycle—Share this newsletter with a friend!!!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Bethesda Presbyterian Church
 4858 McConnells Hwy
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The Bethesda Banner

www.bethesdapres.org

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SC State Historical Highway Marker

I am raising funds for Bethesda's Marker to be unveiled at our 250th Anniversary/Homecoming Celebration this May. The State Archives is nearing approval and the funds will need to be sent to the foundry ASAP. Any and all donations will be accepted. For a donation of \$30 you will receive an unsigned Genie Marshall Wilder Bethesda Watercolor Print. \$40 or more and you will receive a signed print. Checks will need to be made out to me (Dr. Robert Walker) and marked for Historical Marker. I also have copies of the Settlemyre Sketch available for \$25. If anyone wants to make a larger donation than the price of the prints for a tax deduction, just make the check out to the church, marked "Historical Marker".

Dr. Robert H. Walker
5690 Williamson Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
(803) 230-4588
rhwalker@comporium.net

A Brief History of Bethesda Presbyterian Church

By Dr. Robert H. Walker

The Bethesda Church/Meeting House, which was a preaching station by 1760, gave its name to a Scots-Irish community in this area before the Revolution. The original plain wooden building was located about a mile east of our present church. (across from the intersection of Williamson Rd. and McConnells Hwy.) People were buried there as well and the remaining three tombstones were moved to our present cemetery for safe-keeping in 1979.

The person responsible for the organization of Bethesda is generally thought to have been Rev. William Richardson, who at the time was stationed at Waxhaw Presbyterian Church. Some of the other early ministers that supplied Bethesda were the Reverends Joseph Alexander of Bullocks Creek, Hezekiah J. Balch of Bethel, and John Simpson of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church. Between 1791-1794 Bethesda was served by supply ministers from Presbytery when they were available.

Bethesda's first pastor was Rev. Robert Boyd Walker, who in 1794 was installed and ordained at Bethesda and whose pastoral relationship lasted forty years. Under Rev. Walker, known as Father Walker, Bethesda enjoyed great prosperity marked by rapid and extensive growth. He was instrumental in lifting the church to great spiritual growth. Father Walker attended The Great Revivals/2nd Great Awakening of 1796-1805, which started in KY and TN, returning to Bethesda with much vigor to teach his congregation and the surrounding area. From these activities the Camp Meetings at Bethesda began in 1802 and continued until 1864. People came from as far away as forty miles and camped in wooden tents erected about the church grounds. A large wooden arbor that could accommodate 2,000 worshippers was built in 1859.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church 250th Anniversary Commemorative Plate



Graphic is a representation of the actual engraving(actual printing color will be in a sepia tone)

A special 250th anniversary plate has been commissioned. The plate will be a 10 inch gold rimmed ivory plate. The plate will be printed with the Settlemyre church sketch on the front and a brief historical documentation on the back. The cost of the plate has been set at \$30.00 each. These plates are sure to become a treasured historical family keepsake. Order extras for Christmas gifts or for special family members. There will be a limited casting based solely on total orders received.

Orders must be placed by March 19th, 2010 to ensure delivery by Homecoming on May 1st.

Orders may be placed on line from our [church web site](#), by calling the church office (328-1360) or by filling out an order form which will be placed in Sunday School Class rooms and other strategic locations on the Church campus.

Make checks payable to Bethesda Presbyterian Church and note "Anniversary Plate"

Payments may be maybe made to the church office or place in the offering plate.

Other questions or requests for information. should be directed to the Congregational Life Committee. lif@bethesdapres.org

Need to get an item in the Bethesda Banner? Just email your item to barton@navacore.net, or drop it off in the church office, by the 20th of the month to have it included in the next edition. If you need a birthday or anniversary added or corrected, contact the church office.

Holy Week and Easter Activities

at Bethesda Presbyterian Church



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 28 11:00 a.m.
Holy week begins with Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 1 7:00 p.m.
Our choir will lead us in a special service of tenebrae worship as we gather to remember the final night Jesus spent with his disciples and the events that led up to the cross.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3 2:00-3:30 p.m.
The whole family is invited! In addition to the egg hunt, there will a creative telling of the Easter story and refreshments. Be sure to bring your Easter basket!

Easter Morning

Sunday, April 4
Sunrise Service 6:45 a.m.
It was at dawn that the first disciples found Jesus' tomb empty. Join us for a special come-as-you-are outdoor service at daybreak. We'll have breakfast together following the service.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Easter Worship 11:00 a.m.
The tomb is empty and death is defeated! Praise God for the victory we have in Jesus, and hear what difference the resurrection makes for us today.

Come and join us!

Bethesda's Bountiful Harvest Cookbook



Now is the time to place your orders for the latest edition of the Bethesda Bountiful Harvest Cookbook. This edition of our church cookbook will be a hardcover 3 ring bound cookbook containing 350 timeless and treasured recipes from our Bethesda families and church friends from across the country. This printing is part of our 250th anniversary commemoration of Christ's patience, blessings, and work in the lives of our church community.

You may order your cook book for \$15.00 each and orders may be placed on line from our [church web site](#), by calling the church office (328-1360) or by filling out an order form which will be placed in Sunday School Class rooms and other strategic locations on the Church campus. Be sure to order extras for Christmas, special friends, coworkers, and family members.

Make checks payable to Bethesda Presbyterian Church and note "Bethesda Cookbook"

Payments may be made to the church office or place in the offering plate.

Other questions or requests for information, should be directed to the Congregational Life Committee. life@bethesdapres.org

Elder Care Support Group To Meet

Do you have a burning question for a medical doctor? Do you wish to be a part of a discussion of doctor/patient/caregiver relationship and confidentiality? If so, you have an excellent opportunity. Dr. Robert Fulmer, a family practice physician from Rock Hill, will be the guest speaker on April 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. Fulmer prefers a question/answer format with questions submitted before the session. Please be thinking about your health care questions and submit them to Gail Boyd by March 21. You may seal your questions in an envelope for Gail to pass on to Dr. Fulmer. Just mark your envelope "Dr. Fulmer." He will also answer questions on the spot as time permits. This session is open to everyone.

The elder care support group is the brain child of Reggie Clawson and has been meeting periodically for several years. Recently the group has been placed under the Congregational Life Sessional Committee, and Reggie has asked Gail Boyd to become the liaison for the group. We thank Reggie for all her work and sound leadership.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail at 327-5104.

Brazil Mission Update

My mom sent me an email telling me about the love offering the church collected for us as a family. We were so humble, surprised and blessed by the generosity and love of the Bethesda body. Please let the church body know how thankful we are that you all are partnering with us as we serve here in Brazil. We both know God has called us to this part of the world to invest in the lives of children in need and to bring the transforming love of Jesus Christ to those that desperately need to hear. Thank you for your prayers, financial donations, and also emotional support. We also were so blessed by all the ladies who sent thoughtful baby gifts to us before our departure. Our little girl is going to be one of the best dressed baby girls in Brazil! We feel so loved and supported by Bethesda. Thank you!

We were disappointed that it did not work out for us to be able to share and visit more with everyone at Bethesda because of the winter storm and because of my health. Our next visit we hope to come when the weather is warmer, when we definitely will be able to share without any winter weather (and hopefully health) interruptions.

We will be in touch with news about our work and our lives here in Brazil. Thanks so much for blessing us as we are serving our Lord!

With much love and gratitude,
Laura, Felipe, and Sophia Grace!
www.thematiasfamily.blogspot.com



Bethesda Presbyterian is seeking a full time Director of Youth and Children's Ministries. Our goal is the development of children and youth who are disciples of Jesus Christ. Primary duties include oversight of a comprehensive and expanding ministry for children and youth (pre-school – 12th grade) and providing leadership to volunteers. If you know a qualified candidate, please encourage them to apply. A job description and application are available at www.bethesdapres.org or by calling 328-1360. Application deadline is March 15.

Pray for your DYCM Search Team:

*Reggie Clawson
Andrea Coxtton
Justin Curtice
Randy Ransom
Beth Smith
Daniel Smoak*