



# Bethesda Banner

Bethesda  
Presbyterian  
Church

4858 McConnell's Hwy.

York, SC 29745

803-328-1360

Sunday School  
9:45

Worship Service  
11:00

*One Spirit ~*

*One Body ~*

*Many Gifts*



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people of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church  
York, South Carolina

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## It's Not As Much About Bethesda...

It is an exciting time to be a part of the community at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. The formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) points to the truth that our wonderful congregation that began its story in 1760 is now ready to enter into a new chapter of its life of service to Jesus Christ. Of course our prayers are with the PNC as it begins its work.

A new chapter is also a time to consider our own service to Christ and to consider our gifts of time and talent and treasure. With that in mind the Session has designated the month of February as the period in which it invites every member to enter into prayer about our stewardship. Please know that this is not as much about Bethesda as it is about you. You see, when we realize that everything we have and are finds its source in our loving God, it changes our lives. The truth is that having a generous and grateful heart is an important key to joyous living.

Each Sunday in February folks will come forward to tell you about the work and mission of Bethesda. As you hear about the many things Bethesda is doing, I hope you will consider it as more than just information. Rather, it is an invitation for you to get more involved in our Church's life and work. And on the final Sunday of the month, when you bring forward your pledge, it will not just represent a figure on a piece of paper - it will represent you!

I close with these deeply moving words by Isaac Watts:

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That would be a present far too small  
Love so amazing so divine  
Demands my life  
Demands my soul  
Demands my all.

God bless you!

Doug

**"Education Is  
the Mother of  
Leadership."**

**-Wendell Willkie**

## *Session Highlights*

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, January 20, 2019. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received an update from the Pastor Nominating Committee
- Participated in monthly Elder Training
- Received monthly committee reports
- Approved the establishment of a food pantry at Bethesda for those in need in the community.
- Received the financial report
- Received a note of appreciation from Will Johnston for supporting his attendance at the 2019 PCUSA Youth Triennium at Perdue University in July and Prayer Cards from the Matias Family
- Discussed Outreach to Members
- Discussed Staff Appreciation Plans
- Elected Officers of the Corporation for 2019:
  - President—Ralph Adams
  - Secretary—Ernice Bookout
  - Treasurer—Todd Russell
- Received the Pastor's Report

## *Annual Congregational Meeting February 3*

The annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 3rd following morning worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the annual report and elect the 2019 Congregational Nominating Committee. The two Elders nominated are Johnny Walker and Karen Percival.

## *Directory of Worshipers Available*

Updated, current copies of the Directory of Worshipers are available in the vestibule and on the front pews. You will notice that all members of Bethesda are listed in this Directory. Since November, the Session members have been engaged in an outreach to members who have not been attending Bethesda recently. We would like to extend an invitation to all our members to help us reach out to those you have not seen in church recently. The purpose of this outreach effort is to let these members know that we miss them and invite them to come back to church. Please join us in this outreach to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### *January Attendance*

	Morning Worship	Sunday School
1/6/19	87	31
1/13/19	65	39
1/20/19	64	37
1/27/19	74	38

### *February Elders on Duty*

*Trudy Amick*  
*Cheryl Forlines*  
*Robert Fulmer*

*Liturgist - Jean Blaikie*

## 2019 Sessional Committee Chairs

The following Elders will serve as Committee Chairs for 2019:

Administrative/Stewardship - Cheryl Forlines, Chair	Ralph Adams, co-chair
Child Development Center - Johnny Walker, Chair	Debbie Simpson, co-chair
Christian Education - Karen Percival, Chair	Debbie Darby, co-chair
Congregational Life - Steve Childers, Chair	Jim Percival, co-chair
Property - Trudy Amick, Chair	Mark Boyd, co-chair
Worship - Stacy Russell, Chair	Robert Fulmer, co-chair

## Spring Lay School Scheduled for March

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery will again offer classes this spring at the Lay School of Theology held at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. Classes are held Friday night through Sunday around noon. The date is March 22 – 24. The deadline for registration is March 8th. If you are interested please contact the registrar Janis Blocker at [dajaview@lowcountry.com](mailto:dajaview@lowcountry.com) or speak with John Nettles.



## January

### A Thought to Ponder

### A Message to Carry

I have decided to stick with  
 love. Hate is too great a  
 burden to bear.

- Dr. Martin Luther King

## New Food Pantry Gets Started

Bethesda has started collecting food items to stock our Food Pantry boxes. Due to limited storage space, we will have only 3 boxes to hold the collected items. In our surrounding community families are sometimes in dire need of a way to “put supper on the table.” When we are made aware of such a need, we will supply basic, non-perishable foods from our Food Pantry. Items will be collected at Wednesday Night Suppers or dropped off at the church office on Sundays or during office hours. Donations should be non-perishable canned or packaged items and can not be out of date. We will continue to collect food for PATH on the last Sunday of each month. For more information, contact the church office or Edie Nettles.

## Scout Sunday

We will celebrate Scout Sunday on **February 10th**. The scouts invite the congregation to a soup lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend and support our scouts and their leaders!

### *New 2019 Flower Chart*

The 2019 flower chart is on the bulletin board in the hallway in the Sunday School building. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship, please sign up. Please let Pat (328-1360) know if you would like for information to be put in the bulletin for that Sunday. She needs to know by the Tuesday prior to that Sunday.

### *Nursery Volunteers Needed*

We are in need of volunteers to keep the nursery for babies and toddlers during the worship service hour on Sunday mornings. Please consider giving your time so that parents may participate in the worship service. You may volunteer for a specific date(s) or once a month, once a quarter, or **any** time that suits you. Please contact [Lindy Blanks](mailto:Lindy.Blanks). (bethesdaycm@comporium.net) or sign up online at [Bethesda Nursery Signup](#).

### *Retirement Seminar Offered*

Bethesda will host a Retirement Seminar on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending, please call Sheila (803-366-0510) at Edward Jones Investments. The deadline to register is March 8th.

**Friday February 8** - Bethelwoods Kids Night Out for children ages 5-12 5:30 - 10:00 pm. Dinner, crafts, and a movie.

**Sunday February 10** - Bethelwoods Worship for Youth 4:00 - 7:00 pm. There will be dinner, activities and worship for middle and high school students in our presbytery. The cost is \$10 per person. Let Lindy know if you are interested in going.

**Beginning February 10th**, the children will begin collecting coins in Sunday School to save for the purchase of a Heifer International Christmas gift.

**Sunday February 17** - Children, youth, and young at heart are invited to a Valentine's party for Jesus after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Bethelwoods will be hosting a **Confirmation Cluster** group for middle schoolers ready to make that commitment. Please see Lindy if you and your child are interested.





## Sunday February 3

Please join us in participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring February 3 by bringing cans of soup to be donated to those in need in our community. Donations will be given to PATH, a local charity organization in York. This mission was started by a Presbyterian Church youth group in Columbia, SC. Thirty years later churches around the country **tackle hunger** in their communities!

### *A Note from the PNC*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our mission discernment event last month. It was a great event, and extremely helpful in establishing the path forward for our committee. We had about 50 members in attendance. We spent time exploring the strengths of our church, the opportunities we face, and our key priorities. We also spent time thinking about the qualities that are most important for the next pastor of our church to have. I've never been more excited about Bethesda's future.

The committee has now begun preparing our Ministry Information Form. You can review the process flow chart included in this month's *Banner* to get an overview of our next steps. Now that we have your input, you will experience a period where you don't hear a lot of updates from us. Know that we remain hard at work discerning the person that God has called to lead our congregation.

Many people have asked what they can do to support our committee, and we really do appreciate all of your support. May I offer the following suggestions:

1. Pray for our committee. Please thank God for the love these committee members have for our church and all of you. Pray for our wisdom and patience during this process.
2. Be patient. I know it's tempting to ask "Are we there yet?" It may take some time, but it will be worth it to know that we have found the right person.
3. Respect the confidentiality of the committee. It's not that we don't trust you, but it is important that potential candidates trust this process.
4. Offer words of encouragement for our committee's family members. They are giving up time with their loved ones and picking up many of the responsibilities these committee members would normally assume. Their support is critical to our success.

In Christ,

Valerie Bull

Chair, Bethesda PNC

## The Process of Calling a Pastor

Being without a pastor can be a stressful time in the life of a congregation, yet it is natural and normal to undergo this transition from time to time. The question most PNCs hear from parishioners is, "What's taking so long?" There is much more work to be done between the time one pastor's call is dissolved and a new pastor is approved. The following seven steps, and the accompanying chart, define the process and the timeline involved in calling a new pastor.

### 1. ORGANIZE

A Pastor Nominating Committee is recommended by the Nominating Committee, approved by the Session and voted upon by the congregation at a Congregational Meeting. The committee members are elected, the PNC meetings begin with guidance from the presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

### 2. CREATE

The PNC develops the Ministry Information Form (MIF), which includes a detailed description of our congregation and its ministries.

### 3. SEARCH

The MIF is then posted on the PC(USA)'s Church Leadership Connection website. This website helps match Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from prospective pastors to the information on our MIF. The PNC is given the PIFs that match our required competencies and experience. The PNC also seeks and follows up on referrals and recommendations from a variety of channels.

### 4. EVALUATE

When matches arrive from PC(USA), the PNC prayerfully decides which ones they would like to pursue further. Pastors who self-refer are also acknowledged. The PNC reviews carefully each PIF of candidates they have chosen to pursue, as well as church websites and other materials from and about the candidates. When the PNC finds a candidate that everyone on the PNC agrees may be a fit, that candidate is contacted and asked to send sermons for the PNC to view or the PNC may visit, have a phone conversation, or Skype with the candidate. The PNC also begins their background and reference checks.

### 5. SELECT

The top candidates are selected for face-to-face interviews. This part of the process requires much prayer, discussion, and consultation with the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Ultimately, a call is extended to one candidate.

### 6. NOMINATE

Pending acceptance of the call, the PNC reports to the Session and the congregation on the chosen candidate. If approved by the congregation and the Presbytery, the new pastor will then begin ministry at Bethesda Church.

### 7. REJOICE

The PNC, along with the entire congregation, welcomes the new pastor, gives thanks to God, and celebrates the beginning of a new season in church life!



## Just Thinking

An editorial by Dorothy Williamson

Since we are in the process of seeking a new minister for our church, I have been thinking. We made a sort of wish list of what we would like in a minister; now what if the minister we are to call were to make his/her own wish list? What if that list looked something like this?

I want a congregation (read all whose names are on the Bethesda church roll) in which

- All members attend Sunday School and worship service regularly.
- All worshippers actively participate in the worship service and do so joyfully.
- All members make a special point to participate in special services and programs such as mission programs, prayer services, Bible studies, congregational meetings and dinners, CDC programs, etc.
- Families worship together and seek to grow spiritually.
- Sunday School teachers dutifully and prayerfully prepare their lessons and arrive before the Sunday School hour begins.
- All members of the congregation pray for each other and for the minister, the Session, the staff, and church leaders.
- There truly is a sense of unity and a demonstration of support, fellowship, forgiveness and kindness.
- All members show a genuine concern for the unchurched in our midst.
- All members understand that **we** are the ministers: **we call a pastor to lead us** in ministry.
- The officers, in particular, lead by example in all the ways listed above.

And the list could go on and on.

If we fall short in the list above, are we really a congregation that

celebrates the Good News of Jesus Christ  
believes Christ is the head of the church  
is led by the Holy Spirit  
believes we are God's servants  
is dedicated to nurturing others in faith, service and fellowship  
comforts the bereaved  
ministers to the sick  
offers solace to the troubled  
always seeks the lost?

Let us revisit Bethesda's Mission Statement printed on the back of our bulletins and on the last page of our newsletter. Let us spend some time *just thinking, what if...*



5	Billy Burton	9	Carolyn Adkins	17	Nettie Daves
5	Samuel Dover	10	LaRayne Hall	23	Valerie Bull
5	Debbie Simpson	10	Jim Rohr	24	Gail Jones
6	Lisa Teska	10	Jackie Varnadore	25	Gloria Anne Hope
7	Sarah Childers	13	Bill Dover		
7	Will Jenkins	14	Danny Nettles		
7	Deloras Melton	16	Mary Joe Gardner		
8	Colby Wallace	16	Sarah Wampler		

### *Notes of Thanks*

To the Session and members of Bethesda,

I am so grateful that the church has chosen to pay for my trip to Triennium. It is an honor to represent Providence Presbytery and Bethesda. I hope to learn more about PCUSA and bring leadership back to the church.

Sincerely,

Will Johnston

From Safe Passage:

Dear Bethesda Presbyterian Church,

Your help during our Christmas holiday has not only meant so much to myself, but has meant tremendously to our clients at Safe Passage. Each family was able to receive Christmas gifts this year thanks to you all. If you ever have any questions or would like more information on how to get involved, please feel free to ask us.

### *Multiplied - An Update from the Driggers*

About 300 of the 800 plus languages in Papua New Guinea (PNG) are Bibleless. Speakers of these languages have no access to the Bible in the language they think in, the language they dream in. But God! On average four New Testaments are completed in PNG each year. We are excited the Lord is affirming our return this summer to support Bible translation in PNG! There is so much for us to do in these last few months here in America. But God! **We believe He is working steadily, multiplying our human efforts as only He is able, and in His perfect timing will bring us back to our work.** We love our job of loving missionary kids in Ukarumpa and feel a pull on our hearts to return to serving the students and their families in our missionary community. We also deeply love the people and country of Papua New Guinea. And we love what God is accomplishing there.

We have quite a journey ahead of us in order to return to our home in PNG. Since arriving in the States we have had several financial partners who are unable to continue giving. Wycliffe has also approved a budget for our return to PNG that includes an increased cost of living. This translates to a current lack of 34% of our monthly budget. In order to be released to return to our work in PNG, we need to be at 100%. Such substantial need. Such a short amount of time. But God! Every single partnership is vital in multiplying the work of Bible translation in Papua New Guinea. Is God nudging you to become a part of our team? Would you prayerfully consider joining our Wycliffe ministry?

Thank you for your continued investment in our lives. Thank you for working with us to see the world impacted by Bible translation. Praise be to God! May God alone be glorified and honored as we serve and love Him together as His church.

Until all have heard,  
Marty Sara and those girls



## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

Bill Dover  
Michelle Melton  
Steve Rawdon  
Sonny Moore  
Ethan Hose  
Eddie Allan Smith  
Julie Cornwell  
Don Faris  
Walter Jonas  
Ron Hope  
Harold Walker  
Barbara Thompson  
Donna Parrish

Edith Gordon  
Family of Carolyn Rockholt  
Family of Bill Russell, Sr.  
Family of JoEllen Smith (death of her father Walter Neal, Sr)

### Homebound

Amelia Simmers  
Robert Jones

### In the Community and Beyond

Dorothy Adkins  
Walt Bratton  
Larry Rockholt

Chris Brackett  
Jerry Wright  
Christine Roberts  
Dorothy Hazard  
Cathy Cole  
Caleb Dickson  
Jessie Mitchell  
Sonny Adkins  
Betty Grigg  
Donnie Greene  
Ed Beam  
Julie Pittman  
Ken and Diane Stevens  
Cedrick and Kathy Jagers

J. Claude Bell IV  
Christine King  
Reed Wagner  
Elsa Carabello  
Randy and Virginia Medley  
Terri Gaskill and her husband  
Ashlyn Armstrong  
New Mother's Cottage at Thornwell  
Leaders of our country

### Our Global Mission Partners

Matias, Palacios, and Driggers Families

# FEBRUARY

### Regularly Scheduled Activities

Mondays - Boy Scouts 7:00 FH

Tuesdays - Cub Scouts 7:00 FH

**Wednesdays - TGI Wed Dinner 6:30 FH** Choir 7:30

**Thursdays - Bible Study 7:00 FH**

Prayer Shawl - February 5 and 19 6:30 SR

Evening Circle - February 4 6:00 SR

Morning Circle - February 6 10:00 FH

Men of the Church - February 2 8:00 AM

Sundays - FROG Ministry 3:00 - 5:30 FLC

### Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

Admin/Stewardship Committee - Second Sunday 7:00 PM SR

Child Development Center - Second Tuesday 6:30 PM SR

Christian Education - TBA

Congregational Life - Feb 10 4:00 FH

Property Committee - Scheduled as Needed

Worship Committee - Second Sunday 6:00 PM SR

Personnel Committee - Quarterly, as Scheduled

PNC Committee - TBA

### Other Activities in February

**Sat. Feb 2** - MOC 8:00 Passmore's Grocery  
Hwy 72 Call Doug for directions

**Sun. Feb 3 - Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**-Souper Bowl of Caring** - bring cans of soup

**Mon. Feb 4** - Evening Circle 6:00 SR

**Tues. Feb 5** - Prayer Shawl 7:00 SR

**Wed. Feb 6** - Morning Circle 10:00 FH

**Sun. Feb 10 - Scout Sunday and Soup Lunch**  
**for congregation - provided by Scouts** 12:00 FH

-Worship Committee 6:00 SR

-Admin/Stewardship Committee 7:00 SR

**Tues. Feb 12** - CDC Committee 6:30 SR

**Thur. Feb 14** - Happy Valentines Day!

**Sun. Feb 17** - Session Meeting 7:00 SR

**-Valentines's Party for Jesus after church FH**

**Tues. Feb 19** - Prayer Shawl 6:30 SR

**Wed. Feb 20** - Staff Meeting 10:00 FH

**Sat. Feb 23 - Talent Competition and spaghetti dinner 5:30 Location TBA**

**-PATH Collection**

*One Spirit ~ One Body ~ Many Gifts*

## Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*4858 McConnells Hwy.  
York, South Carolina 29745*

*Phone: 803.328.1360*

*Email: [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)*

*Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)*

Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Ralph Adams

Trudy Amick

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Debbie Darby

Cheryl Forlines

Robert Fulmer

Jim Percival

Karen Percival

Stacy Russell

Debbie Simpson

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:

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones    Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Lindy Blanks

Caretaker - Mike Percival    Sexton - Donna Hagler