



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



This is a publication of the
people of Bethesda
Presbyterian Church
York, South Carolina

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A pastor startled his congregation one Sunday morning by asking the question: "What have you done today that nobody but a Christian would do?" The obvious answer would be, "Well, pastor, I got out of bed and came to church today." I have a feeling the pastor was looking for something a little less obvious. It is a good question to ponder as we begin the New Year. Every day God puts in front of us opportunities to serve the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The challenge for us is how we respond. As Christians are we alert to the opportunities to be Christ-bearers in the things we say and do – to do what nobody but a Christian would do?

Think of a single mother. She gets up at 5:30 each morning and gets herself ready for work. She dresses her sleepy children, gets them a bite to eat, drops them off at daycare and school, fights the morning traffic, hunts for a parking space, grabs a cup of coffee, slides behind her desk. For the day, she endures the petty office gossip and deals with fragile male egos in order to make enough money for her struggling family. She finds time to take her daughter to dance lessons and her son to T-ball practice, although she has little time for herself. What makes her do it? She loves her children.

That is what love does. Love finds a way to do what needs to be done. Love is what motivates a Christian to do what needs to be done. Love came down at Christmas. For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son – to be a model for what love does. We sing, "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

Many of us who call ourselves Christian long to become what we call ourselves. I like the way Eugene Peterson translates 1 Thessalonians 5:15 in *The Message*: "Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out." If we look for the best in each other what a difference we can make. God brings out the best in us when we encourage one another to be their best and to do what God has given one the ability to do.

With this in mind, I would like to encourage a New Year's resolution for us all – to be a cheerleader for others. So that during the year when we see others in our family of faith facing difficult challenges we would cheer them on and say in our own way, "We believe in you! You can do it!"

As baptized Christians we can do it when we remember who we are, that we belong to Christ and Christ belongs to us. We can do it, but we need the support and encouragement of fellow Christians in the church. With Christ and the church telling us, "You can do it," then it is possible to do what nobody but a Christian would do. That's a powerful thought as we begin 2018 together!

Have a blessed New Year!

Doug

**Leadership is
action, not
position.
-Donald H.
McGannon**

Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday December 17, 2017. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Approved the wedding of Janie Marie Sullivan and Joshua Stallard on April 21, 2018, pending clarification of Wedding Director/Bethesda Representative
- Received committee reports
- Received the budget report
- Approved changes in the mission support portion of the Bethesda 2018 projected financial plan
- Received a report from the Holy Conversations Committee
- Received a report from the Elder Nominating Committee and approved the slate of nominees for the office of Elder
- Scheduled a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 7, 2018 to elect six Elders
- Scheduled Ordination/Installation of Elders for January 21, 2018
- Scheduled the annual Congregational Meeting for February 11, 2018
- Scheduled an Elder Training Retreat for Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3, 2018
- Received the Pastor’s Report

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 7, 2018** immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to receive a report from the Elder Nominating Committee and take action on this report. The Elder Nominating Committee will present the following slate of nominees for the office of Elder:

For the unexpired one year term of Phil Hughes: John Nettles

For the unexpired two year term of James Anthony: Johnny Walker

For a three year term: Ralph Adams, Mark Boyd, Steve Childers, Stacy Russell

December Attendance

	Worship	Sun. School
Dec 3	66	42
Dec 10	75	52
Dec 17	116	54
Dec 24	103	-
Christmas Eve Service	84	
Dec 31	60	30

January Elders on Duty

*Debbie Darby
Karen Percival
Todd Russell*

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to the Session and members of the congregation who so generously gave towards the bonuses for the church staff. It was so appreciated. Also thanks to all of you who sent cards or gave me gifts this Christmas season. I especially appreciate those who have kept me in your prayers as I continue to regain motion in my shoulder following surgery. Bethesda is a very special place and I have been so blessed to work for you as we praise the Lord through music. Have a very blessed New Year.

-LaRayne

Dear Bethesda,

Thank you so much for the Christmas bonus and lunch. It is a joy being a part of the lives of the children and youth here at Bethesda.

Much love, Sarah

Thank you for the Staff Appreciation Day, Christmas Bonus, and the Covered Dish Lunch this past Sunday. You made my family and I feel very welcome and everything was so nice. I am blessed to be here.

Thanks, Pat

Thank you very much Bethesda friends for the cards, prayers and thoughts of sympathy on the death of my only sister.

Love, Betty Jo Alexander

I would like to say thank you to the congregation for your kind and generous donations toward my Christmas bonus. It has always been a joy to work at Bethesda. This is something I have felt called to do and have felt blessed to be able to serve Bethesda and the Lord in some way. The Bethesda family is and always will be close to my heart. It means so much to me to know that my efforts are appreciated. Thank you again for your generosity and continued support.

-Mike

I want to thank the congregation for the wonderful meal and the gift during Staff Appreciation Day. It means a great deal to know that your work and efforts are appreciated! Please know that Bethesda is wonderful place to serve in ministry. God bless you and thank you again!

-Doug

Thank ou so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. It was so kind of you to think of me.

Love, Jill Dickson Carter

Happy New Year to all from **Bethesda Child Development Center!** We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The BBQ fundraiser and Christmas program went great. Thank you for all who donated items or time to help make our playground fundraiser successful. The Center prays that everyone enjoyed the Christmas program and was spiritually touched by the children's performances. Classes will resume their curriculum on Monday, January 8th.

Parents, please review the Center's Inclement Weather policy. Delay and cancellation information will be posted on WBTV, WSOC, and Facebook.

Happy Birthday to: Ms Candi, Jane L, Khloe A, Riley Br, Tyler M, Ryan T, Gavin C, and Troy J.
God Bless All in the new year!

Happy Birthday!

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Ricky Simpson | 16 | Adam Cole | 28 | Patsy Walker |
| | Jo Ellen Smith | 17 | Steve Childers | 29 | Kelly Williamson |
| 2 | Stacy Coleman | | Janie Sullivan | 30 | Hill Muse |
| 6 | Emma Joy Dover | 21 | Cathy Goodband | 31 | Johnny Walker |
| 9 | David Johnson | 22 | Bobbie Kaye Hagler | | |
| | Harold Walker | 25 | Austin Johnson | | |
| 12 | Shane Sigmon | | Nathalia Nettles | | |
| 13 | Lauren McDaniel | 26 | Alan Smith, Jr | | |
| | Claire Williamson | 27 | Jim Bookout | | |



Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

- Geraldine Blackmon
- Edna Pinson
- Bill Dover
- Michelle Melton
- Steve Rawdon
- LaRayne Hall
- Harold Walker
- Julie Cornwell
- Nancy Moore Smith
- Family of Nancy Boyd Moore
- Family of Leslie Campbell Feemster
- Wes Hibbard
- Vic Adkins

Homebound

- Amelia Simmers
- Robert Jones

In the Community and Beyond

- Larry Rockholt
- Pat Jones Reeves
- Christine Roberts
- Dorothy Hazard
- Beverly Sledge
- Laney Allen
- Chris Brackett
- Melvin Collins
- Reed Wagner
- Elsa Carabello

Martha Costner

- Randy and Virginia Medley
- Eva Bailey
- Jill Dickson Carter
- Bob Dickson
- Luke Gunter
- Max Jonathas
- Ann M. Lane
- Family of Angela Martin
- Family of Addie Foster Baker
- Family of Douglas Wayne Robinson
- Justin Mendenhall

Our Global Mission Partners

- Palacios Family
- Driggers Family
- Matias Family

For you will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John. -C. S. Lewis

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Attention Youth: Deadline to sign up for Winter Youth Retreat is January 7		TGI Wed Dinner 6:30			
7 Congregational Meeting after worship CE Meeting 6:30 Worship Meeting 5:00	8 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH Evening Circle 6:30 SR	9 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP Cub Scouts 7:00 CDC Advisory Committee 6:30 SR	10 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	11 Bible Study 7:00 FH	12 Winter Youth Retreat in Black Mountain-Leave church at 2	13
14 Winter Youth Retreat Returns	15 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH	16 Cub Scouts 7:00 FH	17 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	18 Bible Study 7:00 FH	19	20
21 Session Meeting 7:00 Ord./Installation of Elders during worship service	22 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH	23 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP Cub Scouts 7:00 FH	24 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	25 Bible Study 7:00 FH	26	27
28 PATH Collection	29 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH	30 Cub Scouts 7:00 FH	31	Feb 1	2 Elder Training Retreat	3 Elder Training Retreat

One Spirit ~ One Body ~ Many Gifts

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*4858 McConnells Hwy.
York, South Carolina 29745*

Phone: 803.328.1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Ralph Adams

Darius Alexander

Trey Amick

Liz Blackwell

Ernice Bookout

Faye Boyd

Debbie Darby

Cheryl Forlines

John Nettles

Stacy Russell



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 - Sarah Childers

Caretaker - Mike Percival Sexton - Donna Hagler