



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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I chuckle at how often we get History wrong. Take the year 1809. Napoleon was making a bloody path through Europe with his conquests. Probably no one cared about the birth of babies. But folks should have. There were some terribly significant births in 1809.

For example, William Gladstone was born that year. He was destined to become one of England's finest statesman. That same year, Alfred Tennyson was born to an obscure minister and his wife. The child would one day greatly affect the literary world in a marked manner. On the American continent, Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. And not far away in Boston, Edgar Allan Poe began his eventful, albeit tragic, life. It was also in that same year that a physician named Darwin and his wife named their child Charles Robert. And that same year produced the cries of a newborn infant in a rugged log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. The baby's name? Abraham Lincoln.

Back then the news would be about the many battles. It was the wars and bloodshed that would determine the destiny of the world. But the truth is that the destiny of our culture would be determined in the cradles of normal people.

Back when Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem the big news in the world would have been taxes. But once again that would be wrong. The biggest news in the history of the world would be born in a rude manger.

Into the midst of a troubled world, Christ was born! And nobody realized it but a few shepherds and strangers from the east.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Doug

**The Son of God
became a man to
enable men to
become sons of
God.
- C. S. Lewis**

Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, November 19, 2017. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Approved a Wedding Request
- Received committee reports
- Received the budget report
- Approved the 2018 Child Development Center Budget
- Received a Report from the Holy Conversations Committee
- Received a Report from the Elder Nominating Committee
- Received the Pastor’s Report
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The next Session meeting will be on December 17 at 7:00 pm.

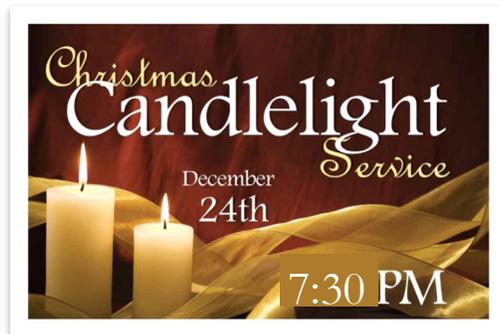


If you would like to **order a Christmas poinsettia** to decorate the sanctuary, please order by December 10. It may be in honor of or in memory of a loved one. A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule or you may call the church office to place your order. Make checks payable to Bethesda Presbyterian Church and write poinsettia on the memo line of the check. The cost is \$12 each.

Bethesda’s Benevolence Fund is available to anyone in the church or our community who is in need of financial help. If you or someone you know can benefit from this fund, please contact Reverend Blaikie or stop by the church office to complete the required application. The benevolence fund can be used to pay directly to a provider, such as the power company, medical office, pharmacy, landlord or to meet similar needs of an individual or family.

November Attendance

	Worship	Sun. School
Nov 5	70	46
Nov 12	66	40
Nov 19	60	39
Nov 26	74	45



December Elders on Duty

*Trey Amick
Faye Boyd
Liz Blackwell*

Let's Decorate! Hanging of the Green
Saturday December 2 9:00 am Sanctuary

Carols at Your Door

Christmas is right around the corner! This year Bethesda voices will bring “**Carols at Your Door**” to those in our congregation and community that might need a little Christmas cheer. On Sunday, December 10th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm our carolers will be bringing that cheer. If you would like to sing or have names of people we may sing to, please contact Steve Childers (803-417-3571) or the church office (328-1360) by December 3rd. Remember - anyone can sing a Christmas carol! Come help us spread the Christmas cheer as we celebrate the season of Jesus’s birth. Everyone is invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall afterwards for some fun, refreshments, and a special Christmas story.

An Opportunity to Be “Angels”

This Christmas Bethesda has the opportunity to help a family in our community. An **Angel Tree** has been set up in the narthex. Please consider taking a tag from the tree and purchasing that item. Items should be returned by Wednesday December 20. Please place the tag with the unwrapped gift. You may take the item to Sarah’s office or to the church office.

Covered Dish Lunch

Sunday December 3

Staff Appreciation Day



The “Light of the World” will be presented by Bethesda’s Choir and Handbell Chimers at the Worship Service on

Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 am

Please plan to join us for this very special celebration of our Savior’s birth. To God be the glory as we worship Him through His gift of music.

O Come O Come Emanuel! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Season of Advent ~ Begins Sunday, December 3, 2017

A time of waiting, hope, and preparation for the coming of our Savior’s birth

Congratulations!



Congratulations to

- Carolann Bull Myles Hall
- Elizabeth Bull Jordan Hose
- Reagan Hall Josiah Walker

for having Perfect Attendance in Sunday School for the month of November. We are so proud of them!

MOC Hosted Special Guests

On November 4 the **Men of the Church** meeting began with a hearty breakfast prepared by Reverend Blaikie. There was a large turnout of men from Bethesda as well as our community. Congressman Ralph Norman and former County Councilman Curwood Chappell were guest speakers. They responded to the lively discussions on several topics and answered questions.

Thank you, Chef Doug for an awesome breakfast! A sincere thank you to Congressman Norman and Mr. Chappell for taking the time to visit Bethesda's Men of the Church.

The next meeting will be on Saturday December 2 at 8:00. Again, Chef Doug and his assistants will provide breakfast.



A Ministry of Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Bethesda CDC will host our annual **Christmas program on Thursday December 14th at 7:00 pm** in the Family Life Center. The CDC is currently selling tickets for Gardner's BBQ plates. Tickets are \$10 each and **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE BY DECEMBER 5TH**. All profits will go toward our preschool playground make-over projects. Plates can be picked up on Thursday December 14 from 3:30-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall prior to the Christmas program. Bake sale items will also be available. The center will be closed on Monday December 25th, Tuesday December 26th, and Monday January 1st. We would like to thank Ms Jamie (16 years) and Ms Stacy (14 years) for their years of dedication and service. Happy Birthday to: Sawyer S, Asher W, Hayden A, Natalie W, and JESUS. We wish a very Merry Christmas to all!

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Faye Smith | 9 Jerry Dickson | 21 Ina Oates |
| Lewis Smith | Robert Walker | 24 Buddy Clawson |
| 3 Tony Plott | 11 Jim Conrad | 27 Tim Goodband |
| 5 Suzanne Griffin | Kristy Melton | Eddie Smith |
| Will Johnston | 14 Tyler Hamm | 28 Roy Glover |
| 6 Travis Alexander | 15 Reggie Clawson | 29 Carson Smith |
| Melissa Wallace | 16 Micah Hancock | 31 Liz Blackwell |
| 7 James Anthony, Jr | 18 Martina Russell | Kim Johnson |
| 8 Ernice Bookout | 21 Ginger Dewey | |
| 9 Tommy Adkins | Melanie Dover | |



Happy Birthday!

Children and Youth 411

Saturday December 2 - all children ages 5-12 are invited to go with us to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center for an interactive tour. We will take the boxes we packed last Sunday. We will leave the church at 10 am and return around 2 pm. Bring money for a fast food lunch on the way home.

Sunday December 3 - Youth will meet in the gym from 5-6:30 for Bible study, games, and snacks. Bring a friend!

Thursday December 7 - a group from BPC will work at the Operation Christmas Child in Charlotte processing shoeboxes. We will leave the church at 4 pm and return around 11 pm. We will eat dinner at the Processing Center. If you would like to be a part of this group, let Sarah know. Spots are limited. If you can't volunteer, but would like to tour the processing center, see the above announcement for December 2.

Saturday December 9 - Rally at the Rim in Clemson

Sunday December 10 - Christmas Caroling - We will leave the church at 4 pm and return for refreshments in the FH

Sunday December 17 - Youth will meet in the gym for a Christmas devotion, Reindeer Games, and pizza! Bring a \$5 gift for a gift exchange. Bring your friends!

Packing Day

On November 17 children and adults gathered in the Fellowship Hall to pack OCC shoeboxes, make a tree ornament, and decorate cookies. The children were excited to experience the true meaning of giving and sharing the gospel with other children around the world. Thanks to all who participated including the adults who had just as much fun as the children! As always, **thank you, Sarah!** **Thanks to Felipe Matias, this wonderful event was captured in pictures.** Because of limited space, only the following pictures were selected for this newsletter. However, each and every picture was precious. You may view all the pictures Felipe took at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eEd5TGYH18jbBY123>



Remembering in Prayer

At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon
Edna Pinson
Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
Jimmy Neely family
LaRayne Hall
JoEllen Smith
Harold Walker
Jackie Johnson
Julie Cornwell

Homebound

Nancy Moore
Amelia Simmers
Robert Jones

In the Community and Beyond

Larry Rockholt
Pat Jones Reeves
Family of Lilly Davis
Christine Roberts
Dorothy Hazard

Beverly Sledge
Laney Allen
Chris Brackett
Melvin Collins
Natalie Bentos-Pereira

Reed Wagner
Elsa Carabello
Martha Costner
Randy and Virginia Medley
Eva Bailey
Jill Dickson Carter

Jeremy Leopard
Bob Dickson
Luke Gunter
Max Jonathas

Our Global Mission Partners

Palacios Family
Driggers Family
Matias Family (safe travels for their return to Brazil on December 31)

Preparing Our Hearts for Advent

Listed below are four online resources to help you and your family prepare for the Advent Season.

[12 Prayers for Advent](#) (from crosswalk.com)

[Free Advent Devotional Guide](#) (from billygraham.org)

[Daily Readings for Advent](#) (from desiringgod.org)

[Advent Devotionals](#) (from Pittsburg Theological Seminary)



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Note: On Christmas Eve there will be a Remembrances of Loved Ones Service at 7:00 followed by the Christmas Eve Communion Service at 7:30 pm.</p>			TGI Wed Dinner 6:00	Bible Study 7:00 FH	1	2 Hanging of the Green 9 am Men of Church Breakfast 8 am Evening Circle 10 am Trudy's house
3	4 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	5 CDC Advisory Council Meeting 6:30	6 TGI Wed Dinner 6:00	7 Bible Study 7:00 FH	8	9
10 Caroling 4:00 - 6:30 Meet in FH Bring refreshments	11 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	12 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP Voices of Grace 7:00	13 Dinner 6:00 Choir/Chimers Full rehearsal 7:00	14	15	16
17 Session Meeting 7:00	18 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	19	20 TGI Wed Dinner 6:00	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Communion Service 7:30 pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30

Notes of Thanks

Bethesda Presbyterian Church Prayer Shawl Ministry,
 Thank you all so much for the beautiful shawl. It is so soft and felt so good at I returned home to recover. There were lots of days snuggled up in the recliner and this shawl was a constant reminder of all the lovely ladies there at Bethesda. It was a constant reminder of God's love and your prayers. I am a true believer in the power of prayer and so your prayers meant so much. Thank you!

Jo Ellen Smith

Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thanks so much for the beautiful shawl. It is beautiful and has meant so much for me. I have it by my recliner and over my knees as I watch TV. With the help of God I am healing. The warmth it gives me reminds me of the BPC ladies!

Love, Claire

Thank You to my Bethesda Family,

Thank you for all the cards, calls, and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital and recuperation. I love you all.

Jackie Johnson

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

Have a Blessed Merry Christmas!

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