

**BETHESDA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

4858 MCCONNELL'S HWY.  
YORK, SOUTH CAROLINA  
29745

803-328-1360

**Upcoming Events**

- Congregational Lunch  
Feb. 5
- Elder Training - Feb 11
- Congregational Meeting  
February 12
- Session Meeting  
February 19
- Spaghetti Supper  
February 25
- Ash Wednesday Service  
March 1

**Sunday School**  
**9:45**

**Worship Service**  
**11:00**

Est. 1769

*One Spirit ~  
Many Gifts*



This is a publication of the  
people of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church  
York, South Carolina  
Copyright © 2017

# Bethesda Banner

Volume MMXVII, Issue 2

February 2017

Lent actually begins at the first of March this year, so I will write a Lenten themed article for you next month. But this month I would like to share with you one of my favorite prayers. In a normal church year it would be an article for March because it is St. Patrick's beautiful prayer. Actually, though, February is a good month to share it with you because it is wonderful preparation for Lent, and it reminds us why the Irish people so keenly identify with Patrick and why St. Patrick's Day isn't just about turning rivers green. Here is his prayer:

"I arise today, through the strength of heaven, the light of the sun,  
The radiance of the moon, the splendor of fire,  
The speed of lightning, the swiftness of wind,  
The depth of the sea, the stability of the earth,  
The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me

From snares of devils, from temptation of vices,  
From everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near.  
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.  
I arise today Through a mighty strength,  
Through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation."

May this prayer be true for you and may you know that God's power upholds you and may you be surrounded inside and out by the love of Jesus Christ.

God Bless,  
Doug

## Congregational Meeting on February 12th

There will be a short congregational meeting immediately following morning worship on February 12th. The Annual Report will be presented along with the financial statement and the results of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign.

*God does not  
call the  
equipped. He  
equips the  
called.*

*Worship is an  
activity which  
springs from the  
heart and not a  
ritual observed  
from the pew.*

February Elders on Duty

Debbie Darby  
John Nettles  
Todd Russell

## Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, January 15, 2017.

Items covered at the meeting included the following:

Received committee reports

Received budget reports (End of 2016 and January 2017)

Discussed at timeline for completion of the Bethesda Manual of Operations

Reviewed the 2017 Stewardship Campaign, to be held for four consecutive Sundays beginning January 15, 2017 and culminating with Commitment Sunday on February 5, 2017 followed by a catered congregational dinner

Received 2017 Committee Assignments

Discussed Assignments for 2017 Shepherd's Folds

Elected the following officers:

Clerk of Session –  
Ernice Bookout

Benevolence Committee – Frank Allen and Barbara Thompson

Scheduled Ordination and Installation of New Elders

Scheduled Elder Training for Saturday, February 11 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Convened a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation for the purpose of electing officers of the Corporation, per by-laws of the Corporation.

Officers elected are:

President – Ralph Adams

Treasurer – Faye Boyd

Secretary – Ernice Bookout

Received the Pastor's Report Met in closed session to

receive a report from the Personnel Committee regarding the performance of Rev. Doug Blaikie as interim pastor, in order to consider the renewal of his Covenant with Bethesda, which expires on February 28, 2017. Following a discussion, the Session approved renewal of this Covenant for the period of one year, with the terms updated to reflect the current Providence Presbytery pastor salary schedule.

## New Sessional Committee Chairs

### Administration and Stewardship

Faye Boyd, Chair

Ralph Adams, Co-chair

### Christian Education and Youth

Karen Percival, Chair

Debbie Darby, Co-chair

### Worship

Stacy Russell, Chair

John Nettles, Co-chair

### Property

Trey Amick, Chair

Darius Alexander, Co-chair

### Congregational Life

Liz Blackwell, Chair

Ernice Bookout, Co-chair

### Child Development Center

Todd Russell, Chair

Cheryl Forlines, Co-Chair



Our music ministry continues adults' and children's choir practices on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings during the month of February. The children's choir will sing on February 12th. The Voices of Grace will rehearse February 14

and sing for the worship service on February 19th.

The Chimes will start preparing for the Easter service on Monday, February 27 at 6:30 in the ladies' parlor. We would like to have 12 ringers. If interested, we'd

love to have you join us.

If you have any questions, please contact LaRayne at larayneha@gmail.com or 803-554-4705.

*"Here I am,  
Lord. It is I,  
Lord. I have  
heard you calling  
in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
where you  
lead me..."*

## Save the Date, Ladies!



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Spring Retreat will be on the morning of Saturday, March 18. The speaker will be Rev. Beth Templeton who wrote "Conversations on the Porch." Her book was featured, and

portions of it were acted out in skits at the PW Fall Gathering at Bethelwoods this past October. The topic of the retreat has not yet been decided.

There will also be a soup and sandwich lunch after the morning retreat. If you are in need of childcare, please let Liz Blackwell know.

The PW Council will meet again on Feb. 19.

## New Book Study Will Begin in February

**What Do I Believe?** For Christians and for others seeking faith, some powerful answers to this question are expressed in the Apostles' Creed, an historic statement of foundational Christian faith. Join the **Jonah Sunday School Class** as they begin a six week study of Adam Hamilton's book, *Creed, What Christians Believe*

*and Why.* In this compelling study, he explores not only what Christians believe, but why it matters. The study will begin on February 5 in the Ladies' Parlor at 9:45.

Our **Young Adult Class** will also begin this study on February 5 in the gym.

The Worship Committee would like to extend a sincere **Thank You** for your contributions that will fund the purchase of **new pew Bibles**. A total of one hundred and seventeen Bibles will be purchased. 78 regular print and 39 large print will soon be available in our pews.

**Congratulations** to two couples who were recently married at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Patrick Dunphy and Kristan Nekon were married on October 15, 2016. Ricky Simpson and Deborah Hose were also joined in holy matrimony on January 1, 2017. Both ceremonies were officiated by Rev. Doug Blaikie.

**Dinner and games and prizes, Oh My!** Join us for a **spaghetti dinner** and games on Saturday, February 25 at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have bingo and Google friendly trivia games.

Rev. Doug Blaikie installed Bethesda's four newly elected Elders during worship service on January 29, 2017. Debbie Darby, Cheryl Forlines, and James Anthony were also ordained at the same time. Karen Percival, who had previously been ordained when she served on the Session in the past, was also installed. We look forward to their service as dedicated leaders at Bethesda.

*Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

*-1 John 3:18*

## Bethesda Plants Seeds Locally and Abroad

Bethesda touches the lives of many people in our community as well as three families serving on the mission field in South America. Our contributions help support the many people who work to “plant seeds” of love, spreading the news of the Gospel and extending kindness and compassion to others in need.

During worship service on January 22, pastor Doug taught the children about apple seeds. He explained that when we give our money, time, and service to God, He will grow those seeds

to produce a harvest of love and blessings to others. We can all learn from the words that concluded pastor Doug’s lesson: “Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God knows the number of apples in a seed.”

In 2016, Bethesda reached out to the following:

### Monetary Contributions (Budgeted)

- Bethesda Benevolence Fund
- Mission Partners: Driggers Family, Matias Family, Tito Palacios
- Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Foundation
- Thornwell Home for Children

### Monthly Collection of Pantry Items

- PATH

### Special Offerings

- Palmetto Pregnancy Center
- Providence Presbytery
- Dimes for Hunger
- Saluda Counseling Center

### Service Projects

- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prison Ministry
- Second Harvest Food Distribution

### Ladies’ Circles

- Tender Hearts
- Children’s Attention Home
- Crisis Pregnancy
- PATH



*Christ Colors Our World With Love*

**Congratulations** to Ms. Candi for her 12 years of dedicated service at Bethesda’s CDC!

## CDC Begins Enrollment for 2017- 2018 Programs

2017 is off to a great start at Bethesda Child Development Center! In the month of February we will begin taking enrollment deposits for our school age Summer Camp and our 2017-18 K-4 program. Summer Camp enrollment begins on February 3 for currently enrolled students and February 17 for previously enrolled students. Both the Summer Camp program and the K-4 program will open to the public on March 1. On February 6 we will begin taking K-4 deposits. The deposit fee is \$75. Spots are very limited and a deposit is required to reserve a spot.

Our CDC will begin rate changes on Monday, February 6. The rates are weekly costs.

Listed below are the new rates for our programs:

Infants - \$170	2 Year Olds - \$145
Toddlers - \$160	3 Year Olds - \$135
K-4 - No change	Summer Camp - \$130

## Session Approves a Revised Facility Use Policy

At its December 18, 2016 meeting the Session approved a revised Facility Use Policy in which fees and reservation procedures were updated. These revisions affect members as well as non-members. If you think you may want to use one of our church’s buildings in the new year please feel free to drop by the church office and pick up a copy of the revised policy. so that you can become acquainted with the updates made.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

411

**February 3 - 5**

Winter Retreat in Hendersonville, NC. 13 youth and 4 adults are traveling back today from a fun filled weekend in the mountains!

**Sunday, February 12**

Confirmation Cluster at Bethelwoods from 3-5 pm for those signed up  
Worship for YOUTH at Bethelwoods. We will leave the church at 4 and return around 7. Cost is \$5.

**Sunday, February 19**

Winter Jam, 2017 at Spectrum Center in Charlotte. Just a few of the artists are: Crowder, Tenth Avenue North, Sadie Robertson, and NewSong. Cost is \$10. More details coming.

**Saturday, February 25**

Church-wide Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have games and prizes.

**Sunday, February 26**

Youth will meet in the gym from 5-6:30.

For more information, contact Sarah Childers, Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministries  
(803)417-0693 [schilders@comporium.net](mailto:schilders@comporium.net)

**Sunday School Perfect Attendance**

Congratulations to the following children and youth who had perfect attendance during the month of January:

Carolann Bull  
Elizabeth Bull  
Kaitlyn Hall  
Myles Hall  
Reagan Hall

Parents, thank you for helping your children make Sunday School attendance a priority!

  
A S H  
W E D N E S D A Y  
**March 1 at 6:30**

**Your help is wanted**

**and needed** in our Church Nursery to help show God's love to our little ones. If you are willing to serve God in this way, please contact Sarah at [schilders@comporium.net](mailto:schilders@comporium.net) or 803-417-0693.

**Attendance for January**

	Sun.	School	Worship
Jan 1	28		78
Jan 8	40		62
Jan 15	50		82
Jan 22	55		89
Jan 29	60		94

## February Birthdays

Feb 5 Billie Burton  
Samuel Dover  
Lisa Teska  
Feb 6 Susan Roberts  
Feb 7 Sarah Childers  
Will Jenkins  
Feb 8 Colby Wallace  
Feb 9 Carolyn Adkins  
Feb 10 LaRayne Hall  
Jackie Varnadore  
Jim Rohr



Feb 13 Bill Dover  
Danny Nettles  
Feb 16 Mary Joe Gardner  
Sarah Wampler  
Feb 17 Nettie Daves  
Feb 23 Valerie Bull  
Feb 24 Gail Jones  
Feb 25 Gloria Anne Hope

## A Note of Thanks

Please share my thanks to the Bethesda Prayer Shawl ministry. I can't crochet, but I know it takes talent, time, plus yarn. I am honored to have one of your shawls. I appreciate your love and your prayers. May God be with us all as we travel through this new year.

Thanks and love,

Audrey Branch



### Did you know?

**Troop 161,  
chartered by  
Bethesda's Men  
of the Church,  
has had 40  
young men to  
receive their  
Eagle Award  
since 1973!**

### National Scout Sunday Celebrated in February

February 12th is National Scout Sunday. Please take time to welcome our scouts and their dedicated leaders when you see them on Sunday, February 12th.

### Free Daily Devotionals Offered

If anyone has any extra devotional books and would like to donate them, please leave them in the basket in the Ladies' Parlor. If you need a devotional book, feel free to pick one up from the basket. They are free!

### Pictorial Directories Still Available

If you would like to purchase a 2016 Pictorial Directory, they are available in the church office for \$10 each.

### Christmas Eve Love Offering Given to The Saluda Center

Dear Bethesda Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of The Saluda Center I would like to thank you for your donation by check in the amount of \$691.65 received on December 28, 2016. Your donation will help The Saluda Center continue to grow and provide behavioral health counseling and medication management services to hundreds of children and families in need throughout the community.

Respectfully,

Rev. James McSpadden, Jr., Executive Director      Kristina Conroy, Business Manager



## February Calendar

*Note: All Youth activities are listed in the Youth 411 section on page 5.*

*Scouts meet every Monday and Tuesday in the FH at 7:00.*

*Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:00*

### February 1

10:00 Morning Circle in FH

### February 2

6:30 Book study in FH

### February 4

10:00 - 12:00 Lunch set up in FLC

### February 5

Catered Lunch after worship

### February 6

6:30 Evening Circle

### February 7

6:30 Prayer Shawl in Ladies' Parlor

### February 9

6:30 Book Study

### February 11

9:00 am Elder Training

### February 12

Scout Sunday

Congregational Meeting after worship

### February 14

7:00 Voices of Grace

### February 16

6:30 Book Study in FH

### February 19

4:00 Session Meeting

### February 21

6:30 Prayer Shawl in the Ladies' Parlor

### February 23

6:30 Book Study in FH

### February 25

5:00 Spaghetti Supper and Games in FH

### February 27

6:30 Prayer Shawl in Ladies' Parlor

### February 28

Collection Day for PATH

## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon	Steve Rawdon
Edna Pinson	Nancy Moore Smith
Jackie Varnadore	Michelle Melton
James Rohr	Bert Anthony
Christy Houston	

### Homebound

Nancy Moore	Amelia Simmers
-------------	----------------

### In the Community and Beyond

Chris Brackett	Lilly Davis
Jimmy Gilfillin	Larry Rockholt
Christine Roberts	Pat Reeves
Jennifer Simmons	Allison Ferguson
Dorothy Hazard	Melvin Collins
Reed Wagner	Natalie Bentos-Pereira
Audrey Branch	
Pam Russell Family	
Virginia and Randy Medley	
Catherine Porter Family	
Matias Family	
Palacios Family	
Driggers Family	
Our government and its leaders	

*One Spirit ~ Many Gifts*

**BETHESDA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

4858 McConnells Hwy  
York, South Carolina  
29745

Phone: 803-328-1360

bethesda@comporium.net



We're on the Web!  
[www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)

**Our Elders:**

Ralph Adams  
Darius Alexander  
Trey Amick  
James Anthony  
Liz Blackwell  
Faye Boyd  
Ernice Bookout  
Debbie Darby  
Cheryl Forlines  
Phil Hughes  
John Nettles  
Karen Percival  
Stacy Russell  
Todd Russell

**Our Staff:**

Secretary/Booker -  
Pat Jones  
Dir. of Music Ministry -  
LaRayne Hall  
Dir. of Children/Youth  
Ministries - Sarah Childers  
CDC Dir. - Cindy Jackson  
Caretaker - Mike Percival  
Sexton - Donna Hagler



A S H  
W E D N E S D A Y

**Join Us for Ash Wednesday Service**

**March 1 6:30**

*Thou has made us for  
thyself, O Lord, and our  
hearts are restless until  
they rest in Thee.*

*-St Augustine*

**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 a symbol of our unity and service to the Risen Lord.