

**BETHESDA
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

4858 MCCONNELL'S HWY.

YORK, SC 29745

803-328-1360

**Sunday School
9:45**

**Worship Service
11:00**

Est. 1769

*One Spirit ~
Many Gifts*



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Bethesda Banner

Volume MMXVII Issue I

January 2017

What Lies Within ?

January 1st begins a season of fresh starts, clean slates, and new, or perhaps renewed, resolutions. It is a time to consider the possibility of change and to embrace the hope of a better tomorrow. I can't help but think of the popular maxim, credited to Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What lies behind us and what lies in front of us pales in comparison to what lies within us."

This brings me to a place of quiet stillness, where it seems appropriate to ponder the questions "What **does** lie within us? Within me? Within the people of Christ's Church?" First let's take a look at what lies behind us. Having been a house of worship for over 250 years, Bethesda has a rich cultural and spiritual heritage that very few churches can claim. Over the generations, people have faithfully worshipped here, proclaiming the Good News to our community and the world. As humble servants, they entered the same doors we enter today. Twenty-three pastors have stood and proclaimed God's Word in the same pulpit from which Pastor Doug preaches today.

So our heritage is important. It is important to us as a people of God and should be important to us as individuals. Sharing what lies behind us, those nuggets of memory and history, helps us gain perspective. It motivates us to reflect on yesterday's priorities and moves us to evaluate today's priorities. Reflecting on our past helps us establish our priorities for the future with the hope of aligning our lives more closely to a life of discipleship. This invites us to honestly answer the most pertinent and persistent questions, "What lies within us? What lies within me?"

Looking back, if only briefly, helps us bridge the gap between the past and the present, the young and old. While culture may change from generation to generation, the truth of God's Word does not. The story of God's sacrificial love and his abundant grace is still our story; it is still our song. I firmly believe that God will bless us in the future just as He has blessed past generations. He will do it in his time to accomplish his purposes. He has promised that his Word will not return void. This promise offers tremendous comfort and hope, compelling us to respond to the Word with the love and grace of a servant's heart.

(Continued on page 2)

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I believe that looking back for just a moment is time well spent. I too have memories, many at Bethesda, but many more at my grandmother's little church in lower South Carolina where my cousins and I were taken every Sunday when we visited my grandparents. In my grandmother's later years, a familiar lady came to visit her. "I loved every moment in your Sunday School class," she reminisced. "How did you manage all those years, on freezing cold mornings when the heater wasn't working, when little girls whispered throughout your lessons, when you were disappointed that only four children had shown up, when no one had memorized the week's Bible verse, when.....?" Without hesitation, my grandmother answered, "*It was an honor.*"

As the years roll by let us take time each January to reflect on our past, evaluate our priorities, and change them accordingly. As we grow older, may we all look back and cherish our memories of Bethesda. They will deepen our roots in Christ's Church, strengthen our faith, and enrich the lives of both young and old. Some day we may be asked, "How did you manage all those years?" May we respond with the same words, spoken with the same loving voice of my grandmother, "*It was an honor.*"

In recent months, I was delighted to talk with someone who grew up at Bethesda, moved away, and later returned to her family's homeplace and her beloved church. She continues to serve the Lord, frequently singing beautiful solos at worship services and for special occasions. When asked to recall her childhood memories of Sunday School at Bethesda, she wrote the following article:

- - Edie Nettles

Sunday School within Bethesda Presbyterian Church
Prior to my childhood until June 19, 1949

By Nancy Moore Smith

Did you ever wonder where Sunday School classes were held when there was only the sanctuary with the old Session Room behind the pulpit? Picture this: the sanctuary is in the shape of a rectangle with balcony on each side and across the back - the old Session room behind the pulpit. The Bethesda sanctuary was built in 1820. In 1882 "extensive improvements were made"*, and the Session Room was added behind the pulpit. Therefore, after that the room was used for Sunday School classes.

The Beginner and Primary classes met in the Session Room. The Beginners met on the side of the room closest to the parking lot. The Primaries met on the side where the educational building now stands. At the beginning of class the two classes met together beside the little antique organ and sang Sunday School songs with Mrs. Nelle Moore Sandifer playing the little organ. After singing we went back to our side of the room for class. The teachers were Miss Lena Bess Moore and Mrs. Sandifer.

The Junior Girls met on the back balcony. Miss Ruth Faires was their teacher. The Junior Boys met in the little room in the vestibule to the right of the pulpit. That room is now used for sound control. The teacher of the class was Mr. Eli B. Russell (Bill Russell's father). The Intermediate Class met on the balcony to the right of the pulpit. Miss Marie Moore was the teacher. There was also Miss Marie's blackboard, as she had been a school teacher for a number of years.

Sunday School within Bethesda Presbyterian Church

continued.....

The Young Women's Class met on the right balcony on the end near the stairs. Mrs. Ione Williams was the teacher. It is now the Ione Williams class.
A class for young adults met for some years in the balcony in the middle to the left of the pulpit. I do not remember who taught that class.

On the main floor two adult classes met. The Ladies' Class met in the front pews to the right of the pulpit. Mrs. Addie Williams was the teacher. Mrs. Williams would have ladies lead in prayer during class, including my grandmother Moore and my mother.

The Men's Class met in the back corner pews by the vestibule doors to the left of the pulpit. I don't know if they had a regular teacher for some years before the Educational Building was completed in June 1949. My Daddy Rufus S. Moore, Sr. was a member. At times I believe the men took turns teaching.

Some people have asked the question, "How did you manage all these classes?" We were accustomed to this and it worked. Remember, we only had one building. This was the way it was until the Educational Building was completed in June 1949.

"As the years passed the congregation grew and Sunday School rooms were greatly needed."* Ground was broken on October 15, 1947, and " was formally opened June 19, 1949."* This building had nine classrooms, a large assembly room and a kitchen.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church has been proud of her Sunday School program and her faithful and dedicated teachers.

Memories of Nancy Moore Smith - September 30, 2016

"Historical Sketches of Bethesda Presbyterian Church," compiled by Mrs. George B. Petty, Jr. and Rev. Samuel B. Hoyt, Jr, 1960.

Note: Miss Lena Bess Moore, Beginner Teacher, and Miss Marie Moore, Intermediate Teacher, were my aunts.

Some other memories:

I remember going to the Beginner's Class as a little girl with Aunt Lena Bess as my Sunday School teacher at church and at home. We/I heard the Sunday School lesson at home and I learned the "memory verse" for the next Sunday. We – little children – would recite the verse on Sunday morning.

I especially remember the little chairs we sat in for class. We still have these little chairs; however, they are no longer used.

--Many memories that I cherish.

Nancy Moore Smith
September 30, 2016

Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday December 18, 2016.

Items covered at the meeting included the following:

Welcomed Kristan Dunphy as a new member of Bethesda

Received committee reports

Received the end of year budget report

Approved the proposed 2017 church budget with the provision

that this budget will be reviewed at the end of the third quarter to make any necessary adjustments

Received an overview of 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
Scheduled the annual Congregational Meeting for February 12, 2017
Approved The Saluda Center as the recipient of the 2016 Christmas Eve Offering
Received the Pastor's Report

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

January Elders on Duty

Ralph Adams
Ernice Bookout
Phil Hughes

Consecration Sunday is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their income.

Our congregation's stewardship planning committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a

social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries in the community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done

in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our pastor will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Session members. Since we will make no follow up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Faye Boyd, Chair
Stewardship Planning Committee



The Blessing of Music

If you attended worship services recently, you were indeed blessed by the talented musicians who shared their time and talents with us. All of us here at Bethesda would like to say Thank You to our Director of Music Ministry, LaRayne Hall, members of the adult and children's choirs, Voices of Grace, the readers, chime ringers, and soloists Nancy Smith and Christopher Blaikie

who led us in praise and worship throughout the Christmas season.

The adult choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00. The children's choir continues to meet every Sunday at 9:45 in the choir room. Voices of Grace will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 in the sanctuary. New musicians are always welcome to join us!



“Another year is dawning, dear Father let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with Thee. Another year of progress, another year of praise, Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.”

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.

How Do I Contact My Pastor?

Rev. Blaikie is available in the church office Tuesday through Friday between 9:00 am and noon. You may also contact him by calling him on one of the numbers below:

Church Office 803 - 328 - 1360 Manse 803 - 329 - 6441
Cell Phone 313 - 580 - 7961

2017 Offering Envelopes will be available on a front pew of our sanctuary beginning Sunday, January 8th. If you do not find one there for you, please let us know in the church office and we will be glad to assign one to you.

Attendance for December

	Sun.	School	Worship
Dec 4	47		67
Dec 11	50		69
Dec 18	55		120
Dec 24	-		138
Dec 25	-		80



Got Resolutions?



January 1	Ricky Simpson	January 16	Adam Cole	January 26	Alan Smith, Jr
January 1	Jo Ellen Smith	January 17	Steve Childers	January 27	Jim Bookout
January 2	Stacy Coleman	January 17	Janie Sullivan	January 28	Patsy Walker
January 6	Emma Joy Dover	January 18	Gabriel Peterson	January 31	Johnny Walker
January 9	David Johnson	January 21	Cathy Goodband		
January 9	Dylan O'Neal	January 22	Bobbie Kaye Hagler		
January 9	Harold Walker	January 25	Austin Johnson		
January 12	Shane Sigmon	January 25	Nathalia Nettles		



The Prayer Shawl ministry continues to make beautiful lap afghans for the sick or bereaved in our congregation and nearby community. If you know of anyone who needs to be “wrapped in love” with one of these afghans, please contact Ernice Bookout. If you’d like to be a part of this vibrant ministry, our January meetings will be on January 10th and 24th at 6:30 in the Ladies’ Parlor.



Congratulations to Holly Varnadore and Jon Love on the arrival of their son, Levon Wilder Love, born November 30, 2016. Levon is the great-grandson of Peggy Adkins.

Home Help Is Needed

Someone in our community, Evelyn Patterson Kimball, is seeking to hire one or two people who can help her at home. She is disabled and needs help in the mornings for a couple of hours and again in the evenings. If you are interested, please contact her at 684 - 2785.

Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence. It is not what we have to acquire in order to experience life in Christ; it is what comes to us when we are walking in the way of faith and obedience. -

- Eugene Peterson

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

411

Sunday, January 1

Youth will not meet today.

Friday - Sunday, January 20-22

Confirmation Cluster Retreat at Bethelwoods for 7th grade and up. Please let Sarah know ASAP if you will be participating.

Sunday, January 22

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

February 3 - 5

Winter Retreat in Hendersonville, NC. Cost is \$50 with a \$25 deposit due by January 15.

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



Free E3 Workshops - Educating, Empowering, and Equipping

No Matter Who You Are E3 (Educating, Equipping, Empowering) has a class for you! These free workshops will be held next Sunday, January 8, at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church. Check-in starts at 2:15 with the Opening in the Sanctuary at 2:30. First session is 2:45-3:55 and second session is 4:20-5:30. Below is a sampling of classes that will be offered:

100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation - A Book Study; Race is Nothing, Race is Everything!; Feasts, Celebrations, and Supper Clubs; Making Banners for Worship; New (and Old) Ways to Teach Adult Sunday School. Would you like to attend a workshop but don't know what to do with your kids? Sign them up for Camp 4 the Day led by trained Bethelwoods Camp Counselors, 5K through 6th grade. For a full list and description of workshops pick up a brochure in the Narthex. Register online at provpres3.org

Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following children and youth who had Perfect Attendance in Sunday School for the month of December:

Carolann Bull Elizabeth Bull

Reagan Hall Kaitlyn Hall

Myles Hall Beckett Hall

Cadence Lackey



Thank You, parents and grandparents for teaching your children the importance of studying God's Word!

Maintaining an Accurate Calendar for Everyone

The church office needs your help maintaining an accurate, up-to-date Church Calendar to avoid possible scheduling conflicts. It is the responsibility of the church secretary to maintain the Church Calendar. If you have an activity, meeting, or event that needs to be placed on the Church Calendar, please make your request to our secretary, Pat Jones. **Please do not add them yourself.** You can contact Pat by calling her during office hours Monday - Friday 9:00 to 1:00 pm, or you may email her at bethesda@comporium.net

January 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. The choir will meet each Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

January 2

6:30 pm Evening Circle in Session Room

January 5

7:30 - 8:30 Fitness Class in FLC

7:00 CE Committee meeting in FH

Book Study Class with Doug - cancelled

January 8

Communion Sunday

January 10

6:30 CDC Advisory Board Meeting Session Rm

7:00 Voices of Grace

6:30 Prayer Shawl in the Ladies' Parlor

January 11

10:00 Morning Circle in FH

January 12

7:30 - 8:30 Fitness Class in FLC

6:30 Book Study Class at the Blaikie's house

January 19

6:30 - 7:30 Book Study Class in FH

7:30 - 8:30 Fitness Class in FLC

January 22

4:00 Session Meeting

January 24

6:30 Prayer Shawl in the Ladies' Parlor

January 26

6:30 - 7:30 Book Study Class in FH

7:30 - 8:30 Fitness Class in FLC

January 27 - 29

Youth Mountain Retreat

January 28

All Day Troop 161 Scouts in FLC

January 29

Newsletter deadline for submissions

Collection day for PATH

Upcoming:

February 5 Catered Congregational Dinner after worship

February 12 Congregational Meeting after worship

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon Steve Rawdon

Edna Pinson Mack Cornwell

Jackie Varnadore Michelle Melton

James Rohr Jimmy Darby

Colton Wescott

Betty Jo Alexander

Blaikie and Gunter Families

Hall and Hazard Families

Johnson and Rhonda J. Logan Families

Homebound

Nancy Moore Amelia Simmers

In the Community and Beyond

Bobby Adkins

Chris Brackett

Lilly Davis

Larry Rockholt

Pat Reeves Christine Roberts

Ken Spears Jimmy Gilfillin

Roy Caveny Jennifer Simmons

Dorothy Hazard Doris Love

Melvin Collins Allison Ferguson

Cis Helms Reed Wagner

Pam Russell Family

Virginia and Randy Medley

Catherine Porter Family

Families of our Mission Partners

Our government and its leaders

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York, South Carolina
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Contact Us
Phone: 803-328-1360
bethesda@comporium.net



We're on the Web!
www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:
Rev. Doug Blaikie

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

One Spirit ~ Many Gifts



See You in Sunday School...

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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.