



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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I like the story of the minister who was giving a stewardship sermon on “total giving.” When it came time to take up the offering the plate came to a pew where there was a small boy. He looked up to the usher and said, “Could you please lower the plate?” Thinking that he wanted to see into the plate, the usher held it down a bit. “No,” said the boy, “a little lower please.” The usher lowered it a bit more. “More; could you just put it on the floor?” the boy asked. The usher was aghast but finally put it on the floor. The young boy stepped into it, stood there, and said, “This is what I give.”

At the heart of stewardship is the core belief that we belong to God and that the only appropriate response to what God has done for us, is to offer ourselves. But more than that is the faith that when we do that God takes what we offer and multiplies it beyond our thinking and imagining. Sort of like a person who plants one apple seed and in the decades to follow it produces more fruit than we could ever imagine.

This is the picture that our Session wants you to contemplate as you prayerfully contemplate your own stewardship. When a community of faith, like Bethesda, comes together and offers itself up to God, the results will be beyond our imagining. That great vision begins with you! God be with you as you consider your gifts of time and talent and treasure.

In Christ,

Doug



**Bethesda's Annual
Congregational
Meeting will be
held on Sunday,
February 11, 2018
after morning
worship to present
the 2017 Annual
Report and 2017
Financial
Information**

Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, January 21, 2018. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received monthly committee reports
- Received the budget report, including a summary of 2017 financial information
- Received a report from the Holy Conversations Committee and Summary of the Survey recently conducted by this group
- Approved a slight change in the wording of the Facility Use Policy
- Received 2018 committee assignments
- Received the Pastor's Report

Board of Trustees Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bethesda Presbyterian Church was convened following the Session meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to elect a President of the Corporation and a Secretary to the Corporation. Ralph Adams was elected President of the Corporation and was APPROVED as a signer for accounts at South State Bank. Ernice Bookout, Clerk of Session, was elected Secretary to the Corporation.

2018 Sessional Committees

- Worship Committee:** John Nettles, Chair Stacy Russell
- Congregational Life Committee:** Steve Childers, Chair Mark Boyd
- Christian Education Committee:** Karen Percival, Chair Debbie Darby
- Administration/Stewardship Committee:** Cheryl Forlines, Chair Johnny Walker Todd Russell
Ralph Adams Faye Boyd (ex-officio)
- Property Committee:** Trey Amick, Chair Darius Alexander

If you are interested in serving on a committee, you may contact the committee chair. Please consider how you may serve the Church by bringing your strengths and gifts to the committee table. We have many gifts but serve one Spirit and are united as one Body.

January Attendance

	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>
Jan 7	62	33
Jan 14	53	36
Jan 21	65	46
Jan 28	54	44

February Elders on Duty

Darius Alexander
Trey Amick
Cheryl Forlines

Newly Elected Elders Installed

Rev. Doug Blaikie installed Bethesda's six newly elected Elders during worship service on January 21, 2018. Mark Boyd was also ordained. The others had been ordained when they were elected as Elders in previous years. Those installed were: Ralph Adams, Mark Boyd, Steve Childers, John Nettles, Stacy Russell, and Johnny Walker. We look forward to their dedicated service as leaders of the church.

Notes of Thanks

My family and I would like to thank you for a lovely visitation service that you hosted for my mother, Nancy Moore. The food was delicious and everything looked lovely. It was nice to have food as so many people drove quite a way to attend. Mom loved her church so very much. She would have appreciated all your work in letting go of her in such a special way.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Correll and Family

Your kindness and sympathy will always be held in grateful remembrance. - Family of Douglas Robinson

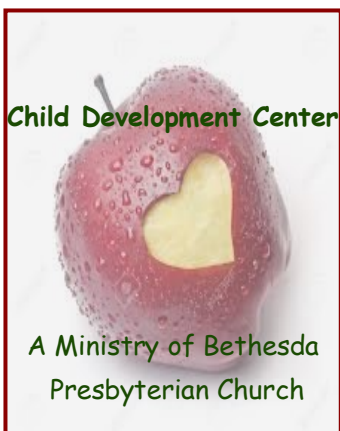
Ash Wednesday Begins Lent

The **Ash Wednesday Service** will be held on **February 14** in the sanctuary. We will have the TGI Wednesday meal in the Fellowship Hall and then move to the sanctuary for the service at 7:30. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which lasts 46 days before Easter. "It is a time when we stop and assess how we're doing in our walk with God. Lent helps us identify spiritual areas in which we can grow and sinful areas that we need to avoid." (<https://lifeteen.com/blog>). It is a season of reflection, repentance, prayer and fasting. During the service ashes are placed on the forehead as an outward symbol that we need to begin again in our relationship with God. This very significant service is observed by both Catholics and many Protestant denominations, including Presbyterian.

WOC - Save the Date!

On March 17 the Bethesda Presbyterian Women will hold their **Annual Spring Retreat on March 17** in the Fellowship Hall. Ladies, wear your St. Patrick's Day green and come celebrate spring with the PW and guests. Joy Messner from Thornwell Children's Home will be the guest speaker. A "baby shower" will be held to collect new, unused items for residents of the Teen Mom/Maternity Cottage at Thornwell. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Soup lunch will be served at noon.

Registration Process Begins in February



Bethesda CDC will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14.

Please check each classroom for party and Valentine information. Our **registration process** will begin in February:

- The Center will begin taking deposits on Friday February 2 for our Summer Camp for school-age children currently enrolled or their siblings.
- We will begin enrollment for those previously enrolled on February 16 and will open to the public on March 1. Spots are very limited and can only be reserved by deposit. Please see Cindy or Dawn **asap** for further enrollment information.
- The Center is also be taking deposits for the 2018-19 K-4 program on February 5 for any child currently enrolled in the older three's program.
- Enrollment for K-4 will open to the public on Monday February 19.

We would like to thank Ms Candi for her 11 years of service to the Center. Happy Birthday to: A.J., Cameron, Mary, Will, Leila, Blake, James, and Ms Dawn.

February

A Thought to Ponder

A Message to Carry

You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary.

- Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards was an 18th century American revivalist, preacher, philosopher, writer, and Protestant theologian.

If you would like to share your "Thought to Ponder," you may submit it for the December edition of the Bethesda Banner at newsletter@bethesdapres.org

Fellowship Class Begins New Study

The Fellowship Class will soon conclude its study of the Five Solas of Reformed Theology. Beginning in mid-February, our study will be on 1 and 2 Peter, using a 12 lesson curriculum written by John MacArthur. Please consider joining us for this in-depth study of the Scriptures and the faith-growing discussions in our class.

February Is Stewardship Month

February is Stewardship month at Bethesda. Each Sunday in February we will explore a variety of topics that will hopefully inform, inspire, and commit everyone to consider their own individual approach to stewardship. The fourth Sunday, February 25, will be our Consecration Sunday when we will ask our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in the Stewardship of Bethesda.

Scout Sunday - February 11 All Are Invited to a Soup Lunch

Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 11. In 2018 Scout Troop 161 commemorates its 48th year and Pack 161 commemorates its 39th year of serving York County's young men. Representatives from both units and their families will join us in worship.

Following worship service, a soup lunch will be provided by our Scout families. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy your favorite soup along with bread and desserts. Donations will be much appreciated at our Soup Lunch!

Scouts will also have "Camp Cards" for sale during the luncheon. These contain discounts to area businesses. Proceeds from Camp Card sales help to offset the cost of events, scholarships, and they allow the troop to reduce the prices for our Scout families.

In other Scout news, a number of our Boy Scouts will attend Merit Badge University on February 1 in Gastonia. The older boys are enrolled in the Personal Management class, and the younger boys are enrolled in the Citizenship in the Community class. Recently, the Scouts packed 40 Police Blessing Bags to distribute to the York City Police and the York County Sheriff's office. We want to thank all that helped to get this project together so quickly. Thanks to all who donated to this, in memory of Officer Mike Doty. We'd like to extend our sympathy to his family. You are in our prayers.



Boy Scouts of America

A Ministry of Bethesda
Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, February 25, the Christian Education Committee will host **Pancakes & Fellowship** in the Fellowship Hall from 4 - 6 pm. This event is for the whole family. Come join us as we enjoy a pancake dinner and activities around the tables. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 25th!



Children and Youth 411

Sunday - February 4 Super Bowl Party in the gym from 5 - 6:30 pm. We'll have Bible study, a football tailgate and games. Invite your friends!

Sunday - February 11 Worship for Youth at Bethelwoods. Join other youth for worship, dinner and recreation. We will leave the church at 3:45 and return around 7:00. Cost is \$5.

Sunday - February 18 Youth will meet in the gym from 5 - 6:30 for Bible study, games and snacks. Remember the games from the retreat? We'll be repeating some of those! Invite your friends to come and compete!

Sunday - February 25 Pancakes and Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall from 4 - 6 pm. We'll get together with our church family for a pancake dinner and games. Bring your parents!

For more info contact Sarah Childers, Director of Youth/Children's Ministries
schilders@comporium.net 803 - 417 - 0693

Congratulations to Carolann Bull, Elizabeth Bull, and Reagan Hall for having **Perfect Attendance in Sunday School** for the month of January. We are so proud of them for their commitment and their parents' commitment to Sunday School!

Thank You to all who helped prepare and serve a meal at **Plentiful Harvest Kitchen**, a ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. On Sunday, January 28 Bethesda workers served over 100 people who enjoyed delicious chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, fruit and dessert.



Ten youth and four adults attended the **Winter Youth Retreat** in Black Mountain January 12-14. During the weekend we learned about Knowing God, Knowing God's Voice, Listening for God's Voice, and Following God's Voice. There was also time for lots of fun, games and great food!



A Note from the Matias Family

Dear Bethesda Church Family,

We, the Matias Family, want to say thank you so much for your ongoing support of our family as we serve in missions. This past year we enjoyed visiting Bethesda and getting involved in various church activities, and now we are happy to be back home in Brazil.

We have hit the ground running and have many ministry opportunities ahead of us with our church in Brazil and also at the ministry center -Casa Semear - where we work with children at-risk living in the urban slums of Sao Paulo.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership and we pray God's blessings over you all at Bethesda!

Love from Brazil,
Laura, Felipe, Sophia, Jessica and Josiah Matias

Music Ministry

The **Children's Choir** will be singing during the worship service on February 11. As this will be very close to Valentine's Day, the children will be singing some songs about love, especially the love God has for us.

The **Adult Choir** will be presenting "The Colors of Grace" for the **Maundy Thursday Service on March 29**. We are hoping some additional voices will join us for that service. We will begin rehearsal for this service on Wednesday, February 7 at 8:00. Please consider joining us for this special service.

The **Hand Chimes** will play for the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday, April 1. We will begin rehearsals on Monday, February 5 at 6:30 in the Ladies Parlor. We need all interested ringers, experienced and new to the chimes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at larayneha@gmail.com, at 803-554-4705 or in person.

A Note of Thanks

To the Session and Congregation -

Thank you so much for the generous bonus and love offering and delicious lunch. I feel so blessed and grateful to have my job and to belong to such a caring, loving church.

- Donna Hagler

The *Bethesda Banner* apologizes that Donna's thank you note, written December 12, 2017, was accidentally left out of the newsletter last month.



Happy Birthday!

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

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Note: Choir rehearsal every Wednesday at 7:30 except on Feb 14. Cub Scouts will meet every Tuesday 7:00 FH Congregational Life Committee - Feb 11 4:00 FH Administration/Stewardship Committee Feb 11 6:00 SR				1 Bible Study 7:00 FH	2 Elder Training	3 Elder Training 9:00 SR
4	5 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH Evening Circle 6:30 pm SR	6	7 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30 Morning Circle 10:00 FH	8 Bible Study 7:00 FH	9	10
11 Annual Congregational Meeting Scout Soup Lunch	12 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH	13 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP	14 Ash Wed Service 7:30 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	15 Bible Study 7:00 FH	16	17
18 Session Meeting 7:00	19 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH	20	21 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30 Staff Meeting 10 am FH	22 Bible Study 7:00 FH	23	24
25 Pancake Dinner Everyone invited 4-6 FH PATH Collection	26 Boy Scouts 7:00 FH	27 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP	28 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30			

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon
 Edna Pinson
 Bill Dover
 Michelle Melton
 Steve Rawdon
 Wes Hibbard
 Nancy and Eddie Smith
 Family of Becky Adams
 Our Session
 The Holy Conversations Team

Homebound

Amelia Simmers
 Robert Jones

In the Community and Beyond

Larry Rockholt
 Pat Jones Reeves
 Christine Roberts
 Dorothy Hazard
 Beverly Sledge
 Woody Percival

Laney Allen

Chris Brackett
 Reed Wagner
 Elsa Carabello
 Martha Costner
 Eva Bailey
 Walt Bratton
 Bob Dickson
 Randy and Virginia Medley
 Family of Officer Mike Doty
 Family of Max Jonathas

Our Global Mission Partners

Matias Family
 Palacios Family
 Driggers Family

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

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Debbie Darby

Cheryl Forlines

John Nettles

Karen Percival

Stacy Russell

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

Clerk - Ernice Bookout

Church Treasurer - Todd Russell

President of the Corporation -
Ralph Adams

Join Us for Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2018 7:30 pm

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:

Head of Staff - Rev. Doug Blaikie Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

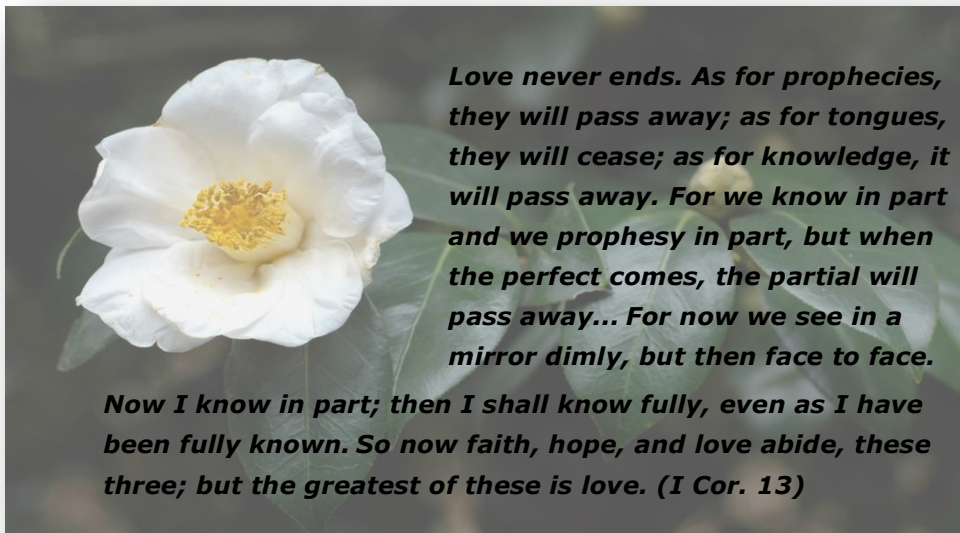
Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Sarah Childers

Caretaker - Mike Percival Sexton - Donna Hagler

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

-St Augustine

Wednesday February 14



Happy Valentine's Day