



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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Presbyterian Church
York, South Carolina

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Love Finds a Way

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 Lord-ship 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 2019 together!*

Have a blessed New Year!

Doug

*a reprint from January 2018 issue

**"The awareness of a spiritual tradition that reaches through the centuries gives one a certain feeling of security in the face of all transitory difficulties."
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Session Highlights

The Session of Bethesda Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, December 16, 2018. The following items were covered at this meeting:

Thanked the members of the Elder Class of 2018 for their service. These outgoing Elders are Trey Amick, Darius Alexander, John Nettles, and Todd Russell.

Welcomed the newly elected members of the Elder Class of 2021, who attended this meeting as observers. These incoming Elders are Trudy Amick, Bobby Fulmer, Jim Percival, and Debbie Simpson.

Approved financial support for Will Johnston as he attends the PCUSA Youth Triennium at Perdue University in July 2019

Approved the 2019 Church Budget

Received committee reports

Received a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 3, 2019

Received the Pastor's report.

PNC to Hold Congregational Meeting and Lunch January 6

Bethesda's Pastor Nominating Committee invites you to join us Sunday, January 6 after church for a congregational meeting. This meeting will be your opportunity to provide input to the committee as we begin our discernment process. It is important that we have representation from as many members as possible. Please plan to join us. A soup and sandwich lunch will be provided.

Need to contact Pastor Doug? He has a new cell phone number: 803-833-2015. He is also available at the church office on Tuesday-Friday.

December Attendance

	Worship	Sun. School
Dec 2	75	43
Dec 9	cancelled - weather	
Dec 16	117	52
Dec 23	106	48
Dec 24	107	
Dec 30	71	21

January Elders on Duty

Debbie Darby
Karen Percival
Debbie Simpson

Liturgist - Donna Hagler

Congregation Celebrates Baptism

Cayden William McDaniel, infant son of Lauren Medley McDaniel and Matthew McDaniel was baptized on December 23, 2018. Lou and Jim Beaty are Cayden's proud great-grandparents.



A Ministry of Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Happy New Year from Bethesda CDC! We would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas program, and a special thank you to all who helped make the BBQ fundraiser a success. The center raised \$1768.75 that will go toward playground projects. The playground renovation has taken longer due to unexpected changes and overhead costs, but the center is still diligently working on this project. We appreciate your patience in this matter. Bethesda CDC is planning a spring fundraiser to continue to fund the playground work, so look for more details in future newsletters. Happy Birthday To: Khloe A, Troy J, Riley F, Jane T, Ryder K, Ryan T, Olivia M, Ms Candi, Ms Cathy, and Ms Gracie.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to keep the nursery for babies and toddlers during the worship service hour on Sunday mornings. Please consider giving your time so that parents may participate in the worship service. You may volunteer for a specific date(s) or once a month, once a quarter, or **any** time that suits you. Please contact our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, [Lindy Blanks](mailto:lindyblanks@bethesdaycm.com). (bethesdaycm@comporium.net) or sign up online at [Bethesda Nursery Signup](#).

Fellowship Class Begins New Study



It has been said that a parable is "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." **On January 6th, the Fellowship Sunday School class will begin an in-depth study of the parables of Jesus.** We extend an invitation to all who would like to come join our class. Come study, read, discuss, pray, and sometimes laugh with us. Study book and guide will be provided. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and begin at 9:45.

Notes of Thanks

Dear Carolers,

Thank you for coming to my house singing lovely Christmas carols. Singing those lovely carols meant a lot to me and I enjoyed seeing everyone. This made Christmas special for me. Thank you again.

Love,

Ina Oates

Dear Bethesda Presbyterian,

During this time of Advent as we anxiously wait for the gift, Emmanuel, God with us, we want to thank you for the gift you are to Thornwell! We are so thankful that you came to spend part of your summer with us and you made it such a special time for our children and youth on campus. Thank you for the difference you made! We hope you'll come back and visit soon!

Blessings,

Sarah Bowers, Volunteer Coordinator



1	Ricky Simpson	14	Kathryne Anne Williams	25	Nathalia Nettles
2	JoEllen Smith	16	Adam Cole	26.	Alan Smith, Jr.
3	Stacey Coleman	17	Steve Childers	27.	Jim Bookout
6	Emma Joy Dover	17	Michael Clark	28.	Patsy Walker
9	David Johnson	17	Janie Stallard	29.	Kelly Williamson
9	Harold Walker	17	Deborah Fulmer	31.	Johnny Walker
12	Shane Sigmon	21	Cathy Goodband		
13	Lauren McDaniel	22	Bobbie Kaye Hagler		
13	Claire Williamson	25	Austin Johnson		

Opportunities to Participate in Sharing the Gospel

Did you know that in the last 25 years Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, delivered 157 million shoebox gifts to boys and girls in over 150 countries around the world? Wow! Each box is sent with prayer that the child who receives it will experience God's love through their simple gifts. It is an opportunity to share the Gospel and "*declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples*" (Psalm 96:3).

Not just at Christmas time, but all year long God continues to provide many opportunities for us to make Christ known in unreached places around the world where his love and saving grace are unheard of, where life holds no hope or joy. Bethesda is blessed to be able to provide some support for three global mission partners: the Matais, Palacio, and Driggers families. There are also other opportunities in our area to impact the lives of the unreached and bring them hope. God doesn't casually invite us to participate in the Great Commission. He calls us, He commands us to Go and Make Disciples of All the Nations. How can you **personally** be a part of this global effort? After taking a few moments to reflect and count our own Christmas blessings, the answer is simple! The workers are few, the need is great, and the harvest is ripe. Listed below are several non-profit missional organizations in our area.

Samaritan's Purse Boone, NC

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

SIM by Prayer Both USA and International offices Ft Mill, SC

We are multi-ethnic, multiskilled teams living out the Gospel in heart, word, and deed. We bring the good news to communities where Jesus Christ is least known. By prayer we are disciples and we make disciples who love and worship Jesus. We have over 4000 workers serving in over 70 countries. [What is SIM?](#) A video message from the International Director

JAARS Waxhaw, NC

Our mission is to make Bible translation and language development possible, especially in the most remote and difficult places on earth. We do that by enabling locally appropriate and sustainable solutions in transportation, technology, media and training.

TEAM Office in Charlotte, NC

We envision the church transforming our world. Founded more than 125 years ago, we partner with churches to send missionaries to work in evangelism, church planting, community development, healthcare, education, social justice, business as mission and many other areas of global missions.

United World Mission Charlotte, NC

Our mission is to equip leaders, establish churches, and engage in holistic ministry by partnering with the church globally.

South America Mission USA Ft Mill, SC

For over a century South America Mission has been working to see the Church of Jesus Christ multiplied and transforming communities by embodying the Kingdom of God. Our missionaries and partners work to share the gospel, reproduce authentic disciples of Jesus, plant churches, train leaders and equip God's people to minister transformationally.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
Sonny Moore
Ethan Hose
Eddie Allan Smith
Julie Cornwell
Don Faris
Walter Jonas
Ron Hope
Patsy Walker
Barbara Thompson

Homebound

Amelia Simmers
Robert Jones

In the Community and Beyond

Dorothy Adkins
Walt Bratton
Larry Rockholt
Chris Brackett
Christine Roberts
Dorothy Hazard
Cathy Cole
Caleb Dickson

Jessie Mitchell
Sonny Adkins
Betty Grigg
Donnie Greene

Ed Beam
Russ Branch
Julie Pittman
Ken and Diane Stevens
J. Claude Bell IV
Christine King - Jim & Hildgard Bell's granddaughter
Reed Wagner
Elsa Carabello
Randy and Virginia Medley

Family of Shelby Brakefield
New Mother's Cottage at Thornwell
Leaders of our country

Our Global Mission Partners

Matias family
Palacios family
Driggers Families

January

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Mondays - Boy Scouts 7:00 FH
Tuesdays - Cub Scouts 7:00 FH
Wednesdays - TGI Wed Dinner 6:30 FH Choir 7:30
Thursdays - Bible Study 7:00 FH
Prayer Shawl - January 22 6:30 SR
Evening Circle - January 7 6:00 SR
Morning Circle - January 9 10:00 FH
Men of the Church - TBA
Newsletter Deadline for Submissions - January 28

Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

Admin/Stewardship Committee - Second Sunday 7:00 PM SR
Child Development Center - Second Tuesday 6:30 PM SR
Christian Education - Jan 27 after church LP
Congregational Life - TBA
Property Committee - Scheduled as Needed
Worship Committee - Second Sunday 6:00 PM SR
Personnel Committee - Quarterly, as Scheduled

Other Activities in January

Thurs. Jan 3 - Bible Study 7:00 FH
Sun. Jan 6 - Congregational Meeting and Lunch (lunch provided by the PNC)
-Commissioning of PNC
-FROG Ministry (basketball) 3:00 - 5:30 FLC
Mon. Jan 7 - Evening Circle 6:00 SR
Tues. Jan 8 - Elder Training 7:00 SR
Wed. Jan 9 - Morning Circle 10:00 FH
Sun. Jan 13 - Elder Training 2:00 - 4:00 SR
-FROG Ministry 3:00 - 5:30 FLC
Wed. Jan 16 - Staff Meeting 10:00 FH
Sun. Jan 20 - WinterJam Meet at 3:30 at church
See Lindy for details - signup sheet in narthex
-Session Meeting 7:00 SR
-FROG Ministry 3:00 - 5:30 FLC
Tues. Jan 22 - Prayer Shawl 6:30 SR
Sun. Jan 27 - CE Committee Meeting right after church LP
-FROG Ministry 3:00 - 5:30 FLC
-PATH Collection

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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

Mark Boyd

Trey Amick

Steve Childers

Debbie Darby

Cheryl Forlines

John Nettles

Karen Percival

Stacy Russell

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker



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 - Lindy Blanks

Caretaker - Mike Percival Sexton - Donna Hagler