

March, 2020

# Bethesda Banner



## Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.

York, SC 29745

(803)328-1360

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship Service 11:00 am



*This is a publication of  
the people of  
Bethesda Presbyterian*

At the onset of Jesus' ministry, John announced his coming in fulfillment of Isaiah 40: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." This is the cry of Lent: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make room for him in your thoughts and activities and affections.

An appropriate response to this announcement is to take stock of our lives, to reconsider how we're living in light of God's presence and power made available to us in Jesus. And that's what Lent is for: to reflect on our lives as they are and as they could be.

Giving up a habit or a food or a pleasure is not distinctly Christian. People give up things all the time in the name of self-help, or worse, vanity and vengeance. The point of Lent is to reorient life God-ward. This reorientation has to do with desert and wilderness.

A "wilderness experience" in our language usually means one has been gone for awhile and now returns with new insight or perspective, "a new lease on life." Whether it's a trip to the third world, or a hike in the mountains, people are stripped of their usual comforts, removed from the safety of familiarity and forced to see the world from a different vantage point.

Our aim during Lent is something like a wilderness experience. We want to shake up our lives significantly enough that when we reach for our usual comforts and grasp a fistful of air, we're forced to cling to Christ - his body, his blood. We want to see just how upside down our world really is as our "important things" prove to be perishable goods, as the light shines on our "righteousness" and exposes the layers of "self" beneath the surface, and as our "busy" lives are shown to simply lack wisdom.

The desire is a new lease on life, a view into the vast world of God, a deep breath and long look above the tree line of self-absorption. So in Lent we focus on getting away from the life of flesh and into the life of the Spirit, denying our ways and embracing God's.

The point of giving things up isn't to be reminded of how much we miss them, but rather to be awakened to how much we miss God and long for his life-giving Spirit. This means, of course, that Lent isn't only about giving up things. It's also about adding things. God-things.

The practice of giving something up for Lent is a way of entering into the wilderness with Jesus. Don't worry about whether your sacrifice is a good one. It's not a contest. Just make your aim to know Christ more fully, and trust him to lead you. Seek to replace that thing with devotion to Christ - his Word and his mission. God may lead you to give up and take up more as you go. That's good. Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus.

*Matt Smethurst, managing editor of The Gospel Coalition*

Session met on Summary of February Session Meeting

The Bethesda Sunday, February 16, 2020. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

Received an update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Received committee reports

Received the budget report

Annual review of membership

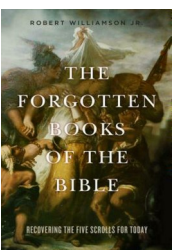
A review determined that there were 59 members who had ceased being actively involved in the Bethesda ministry. This number is part of the information we are required to report annually to the Presbytery. The Session Clerk will send a letter to these members encouraging them to once again become involved in the life of the church. It is our deep desire that all persons on our membership rolls will be active participating members of our ministry.

Received the Pastor's Report

### We Worship a Holy God

The Fellowship Bible Study class has recently concluded the study of the book of Joshua. The final two chapters challenged us, as Joshua challenged the Israelites, to think deeply about our covenant with the Lord. This scripture has led us to consider the character, nature and being of God we worship. We refer to God as Holy. Have we ever given thought to the Holiness of God? What does it mean, how does our understanding of the Holiness of God affect our worship and our service?

On Sunday March 29, the Fellowship Bible study class will begin a study of the Holiness of God. In this study we will explore and discuss all the questions raised above. We will be using Drew Dyck's book "*YAWNING AT TIGERS - You can't tame God, So stop trying*" to guide our study. Perhaps you have been waiting for the right time to join a Bible study, the Fellowship would like to extend an invitation to join us in this transformative study. If you do have an interest in this study, please contact the church office so we can ensure we have an adequate number of study books.



Robert Williamson, Jr. (Ed & Dorothy's nephew) will share from his book, The Forgotten Books of The Bible, at First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill on March 22 from 3-5 pm.

Come explore what the Festival Scrolls of the Old Testament have to say to us in the church today! We will focus on how the book of Ruth helps us think about immigration issues and what Ecclesiastes says about living a meaningful life, knowing that we will someday die. Church members, pastors, and teachers will enjoy this interactive study.

There is no "official" registration for this event, but an estimate of participants from your church would be helpful. Email Edye Bender at [dcedye@aol.com](mailto:dcedye@aol.com) to RSVP or with any questions. Thanks!

# March

## ***March Calendar***

### **Sunday, March 2: Commitment Sunday**

CE Committee 4 pm FH, Pickle Ball 5:30 pm FLC

### **Monday, March 2:** Evening Circle 6 pm SR

Chimes 6:30 pm LP, Boy Scouts 7 pm

### **Tuesday, March 3:** Prayer Shawl 6 pm LP

Cub Scouts 7 pm

### **Wednesday, March 4:** Morning Circle 10 am FH

Dinner 6:30 pm FH, Choir 7:30 pm

### **Thursday, March 5:** Bible Study 6:30 in FH

### **Sunday, March 8:** Property Committee 4 pm FH

Pickle Ball 5:30 pm in FLC

Admin Committee 7 pm in SR

### **Monday, March 9:** Boy Scouts 7 pm in FH

### **Tuesday, March 10:** CDC Committee 6:30 pm SR

Cub Scouts 7 pm

### **Wednesday, March 11:** Dinner 6:30 pm FH

Choir 7:30 pm

### **Thursday, March 12:** Bible study 6:30 pm

### **Sunday, March 15:** Pickle Ball 5:30 pm in FLC

Session 6 pm SR

### **Monday, March 16:** Chimes 6:30 pm LP

Boy Scouts 7 pm

### **Tuesday, March 17:** Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm LP

Cub Scouts 7 pm

### **Wednesday, March 18:** Staff Meeting 10 am FH

Dinner 6:30 pm in FH, Choir 7:30 pm

### **Thursday, March 19:** Bible Study 6:30 pm in FH

### **Friday, March 20:** CDC Fundraiser - Spaghetti

Dinner and Fun Night 6-10 pm FLC

### **Sunday, March 22:** Pickle Ball 5:30 pm in FLC

### **Monday, March 23:** Chimes 6:30 pm LP

Boy Scouts 7 pm

### **Tuesday, March 24:** Cub Scouts 7 pm

### **Wednesday March 25:** Dinner 6:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm in FH, Choir 7:30

### **Thursday, March 26:** Bible Study 6:30 pm FH

**Sunday, March 29:** 5th Sunday Covered Dish Dinner following worship in FH, PATH Sunday, Pickle Ball 5:30 in FLC

### **Monday, March 30:** Chimes 6:30 in FH

### **Tuesday, March 31:** Cub Scouts 7 pm in FH



## ***March Birthdays***



- 3 Lisa Percival, Alan Smith, Sr.
- 4 Edie Nettles
- 5 Christina Jonioux
- 6 Lane Russell
- 7 Joni Walker
- 9 Mills Sharpe
- 10 Taylor Adkins
- 12 Jason Melton, David Nettles
- 18 Charles Williamson
- 19 William Bell, Anne Caveny, Conor Goodband
- 22 Irvin Jones
- 25 Katie Burns, Ainsley Darby, III
- 27 Dorothy Williamson
- 28 Steven Dickson
- 29 Chad Russell
- 30 Jonathan Brown
- 31 Karen Boyd

## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

James Anthony Jr. (kidney surgery, 3/4/20)

Anita Ferguson Buffolino

Bill Dover

Edith Gordon

Ethan Hose

Michelle Melton

Sonny Moore

Mike Percival

Ruth Rawdon-back surgery

Steve Rawdon

Carolyn Rockholt

Eddie Allan Smith

Nancy M. Smith (foot ulcer)

Patsy Walker (recovery from fall)

### Homebound

Amelia Simmers

Robert Jones

### Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and

Tito Palacios (La Mision)

### Deaths

Faye Smith - 2/2/20

Walter Jonas - 2/17/20

John Percival - 2/25/20

### In the Community and Beyond

Mary Parkman (friend of Walkers) stomach cancer

Katie & Matt McCoy (expecting twins) Jim & Lisa Percival's daughter

Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)

Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)

Ed Beam (Cecelia Alexander's brother-in-law)

Randy Ransom

Heidi Benton

Ellen and Kenny Green

Scott McDaniel (Bill Dover's son-in-law)

Christine Roberts

Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus

Chris Brackett - cancer

Karen Rescigno (Donna Hagler's cousin - breast cancer)

Barbara Good (Debbie Darby's mother)

Kathy Gale (Debbie Simpson's friend)

Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)

Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)

Amanda Hall (LaRayne's daughter)

Russ Branch (Dorothy Williamson's great-nephew)

Doris Duncan (Christine McCraven's mother) ALS

Mattie Thomas (granddaughter of Jim Percival's cousin)

Bryan Good (Debbie Darby's brother)

Casey Lane (Nancy Smith's nephew, dialysis)

Eddie Gregory (cancer)

Dugan Meredith (t-cell lymphoma)

Tommy Ligon (Carol Hope's cousin - cancer)

Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)

### February Attendance

	Morning Worship	Sunday School
2/2/20	56	30
2/9//20	84	39
2/16/20	58	34
2/23/20	40	37

### March Ushers

Linda Messer

Stacy Russell

Debbie Simpson



Congratulations!!

Best wishes to Kristy and Jason Melton on the birth of their daughter, Kinsley Elizabeth Melton on January 15, 2020. Proud grandparents are Gloria and \_\_\_\_ Hope.

Congratulations to Ashley and Josh Faulkenberry on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Thomas Faulkenberry on February 8, 2020. Proud grandparents are Jackie and Tommy Varnadore.

**Thank you!**

We are so grateful for the prayer shawl given to baby Nikolas and for the one given to Amanda before he was born. They were both beautiful and really appreciated. We appreciate all the prayers, also.

Michael and Amanda Walch

Thanks so much to the Bethesda Presbyterian Women for continually supporting Thornwell. Your recent gift will help us immediately meet needs of a young person or family facing trauma. We covet your prayers and truly appreciate you standing with us in this service.

**Blessings,**

**Buddy Ferguson,**

**Senior Church Relations Manager, Thornwell**



TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Lisa Davis

AND

Todd Hagler

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM  
ON THEIR WEDDING DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH, 2020  
AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4858 MCCONNELLS HWY  
YORK, SOUTH CAROLINA 29745



Please join us for BBQ and all the trimmings following the ceremony  
In the Family Life Center

A large assortment of inspirational material has been donated by Barbara Thompson's family. Please check the table in the Fellowship Hall to find short books, study material and devotional booklets. These are free so take any you can use. Also, check the basket in the vestibule for more devotional books. Commit to spending more time reading and studying good Christian material, especially during Lent!

Bethesda will serve at **Plentiful Harvest Kitchen** on **March 8** from 2-6 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. You can come at 2 pm to help prepare the meal, come at 4 pm to serve and/or clean up or you can stay the entire time. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others!

### Music Opportunities



**Hand Chime Ringers** are needed to play on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Rehearsal will be on Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Ladies' Parlor.

If you have never played before or if it has been awhile since you played, we would love to have you join us. Those of you that have been playing with us, I hope you will be able to join us again.

**Singers**, we need you to join us for our Maundy Thursday Worship Service.

We are going to present "The Living Last Supper" which will feature Jesus and the disciples.

If you are interested in joining us, rehearsal will be on Wednesdays at 8:15 pm in the Choir Room.

We would love to add some additional voices to our choir for this service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the current members or LaRayne at [larayneha@gmail.com](mailto:larayneha@gmail.com); (803)554-4705 or in person.

# Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)

*"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "*

*Matthew 3: 3*

Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Ralph Adams

Trudy Amick

Ernice Bookout

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Bobby Fulmer

Irvin Jones

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Debbie Simpson

## **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

Interim Director of Children/Youth Ministries

Caretaker - Mike Percival

Sexton - Donna Hagler