

December, 2020



# Bethesda Banner

## Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.  
York, SC 29745  
(803)328-1360

Worship 10:00 am

Children's Church at  
10:00 am in the  
Fellowship Hall

No Sunday School  
or Nursery.

Check

[www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)  
for updates.

Advent is especially important this year. It is a time to focus on what is coming in a period of uncertainty. Israel was having the same problem. There is something uplifting in facing such moments with hope in the providence of God and the assurance of grace for the world God created. During Mary's Advent period, she was able to voice, not just hope, but knowledge with an inner certainty of what God was doing and would do to renew all humankind. Read Luke 1:46-49: "**My soul glorifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me -- holy is his name.**" Let her words sink into your heart and mind because Mary reflects a wonderful hope and certainty in God in a time of turmoil.

In this time of uncertainty, may we draw strength from Mary and know that our gracious God is with us and will guide us. In the midst of the Covid Pandemic, our session, in ways that we are comfortable to allow, are opening up more programs at Bethesda. Our PNC continues to meet and search for the person who will be the called Pastor for Bethesda. Please keep them in your prayers. All this points to the reality that our Lord is at work here and this Advent season is the perfect time to practice the spiritual gifts of waiting and trust in the future.

The overwhelming reality is that faith and life are always in tandem. If we can bring the faith portion to the center of our lives, then we can soften the hurting areas. So may this Advent be a time of prayer for you. In this time of uncertainty, let this be the moment where you find your devotional life deepened and your knowledge of Scripture broadened. Like Mary, may we know that, even in this time, God has done great things for us. "**Holy is His name.**"

God Bless You!

Doug



## Mission Updates

### Matias Family Update

Greetings to each of you from Brazil. Our family is doing well during this time of Covid. Felipe continues to serve at Casa Semear (Sower House). Although the physical location of the ministry center is currently closed, the work of the ministry continues. Felipe has been working alongside other staff members to complete several much needed repairs and maintenance projects on the house. He also continues to serve through his photography ministry, providing photos for both our ministry and parent mission organization.

Felipe has most recently been helping to organize and take photos for our ministry's annual Christmas drive. The gifts the children receive at Christmas are tangible expressions of God's love and care to these children and their families. Plans are underway for distributing the annual Christmas gifts to participating children and youth in a safe manner. Our entire family will participate in outreach to the *favela* (slum) community by distributing boxes of food and masks made by a group of Laura's friends.

We continue to isolate at home with some exceptions. Laura is homeschooling Sophia and Jessie this year and is participating in a homeschool group. Since moving into a new home we have been able to help with the homeschool group through hosting a small group of children in our home each Friday afternoon. Both Laura and Felipe are helping teach. The children are especially enjoying Felipe's photography classes, which he is providing to other age groups as well.

Our family has plans to travel to the United States in March and will be there until mid June, Lord willing. Please pray for health and for safe travels for all six of us. As always, we also appreciate your prayers for the ministry as we serve and share the word of God with those in need in the *favela* (slum).

We cannot end this update without sharing our appreciation for the faithful prayers and financial support of Bethesda. Thank you for partnering with us as we share the gospel of Christ in Brazil. We are grateful.

Our wish for you as we enter this Christmas season is for joy, peace, and health.

*"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace..." (Romans 15:13)*

Many blessings,  
Felipe, Laura, Sophia, Jessie, Josiah, and Annabelle

### La Mision (August - October)

#### Food Delivery:

La Mision was able to deliver 63 bags of food, supplements and a Bible devotional to the families of Puerto Barrios with the help of Director Hugo, Teacher Alejandro and the teachers from the schools that are in Fundacion La Mision's projects.

#### Delivery to Families of pastors:

During this time, La Mision had the opportunity to bless 11 families of pastors from different Christian churches around the villages. We heard about the needs that they are passing through as a church, and it is a great blessing for us to be able to contribute not only with families but also with churches. Each bag has supplements such as Incaparina, proteinas, rice, sugar, beans, pasta and oatmeal.

#### Trip to Puerto Barrios:

We are grateful to God and you for the support to La Mision. We made a trip to Puerto Barrios and worked together with people from the villages and delivered our third food supplements. We included a Bible devotional about "The Pure in Heart" in each bag. We were able to visit 5 different villages: Sarita, Vista Hermosa, Palestina, San Carolos and Lampara - benefitting 118 families in health, nutrition and spiritual life.

#### Tameja's Family:

We learned about a family from Tameja that didn't have the necessary resources to buy milk for their baby, people let us know and La Mision sent milk for four months. Now the family has formula to feed their baby and in that way he will grow healthy.

In these three months, we delivered 181 bags and approximately 905 person benefitted.

**Time and Talent forms and Pledge cards** will be available on the front pew in the sanctuary. Due to COVID-19, if you do not wish to do this in person, you may call Pat in the church office (803)328-1360, and have a package mailed to you, or give your information to her over the phone.

**Thanks to all who have been saving their plastic bags.** In October and November, we collected over 200 pounds! Remember that the plastic we are collecting are: grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, ziplock & other re-sealable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. **No plastic food containers - only plastics that can be crumpled into a ball.** All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue. If we collect 500 pounds of plastic by April 15, Trex will award us with a beautiful Trex bench. It sounds impossible; but it's not—hundreds of schools and churches have done this. The bench will be placed near the playground beside the Fellowship Hall.

### **Children's Church**

All children ages 3 and above are invited to come to children's church during the regular worship time. We will meet in the fellowship hall where we can practice social distancing. During this time, we will have a worship service, a lesson, and some fun activities. When parents come to church, they can just leave their children at the fellowship hall. We do ask that the children wear masks during this time. We hope this will allow parents and children to fully enjoy their worship time.

### *Angel Tree*

An Angel Tree will be set up in the Fellowship Hall this Wednesday, December 2, and also in the Sanctuary on Sundays. Please consider taking a tag and purchasing the item listed. All items will need to be returned to the church office by Sunday, December 20. We are sponsoring a family in York - a single mother with five daughters.

**TGI Wednesdays** start back December 2 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required with a limit of 36 people. To reserve your spot to eat in the Fellowship Hall, text or call Steve at (803)417-3571 by the Monday evening before. You may also call or text by Monday evening to order take out meals. If you don't get an answer, leave a message for Steve. Don't forget to wear your mask.



## December Birthdays



- 1 Lewis Smith
- 3 Tony Plott
- 5 Suzanne Griffin, Will Johnston
- 6 Melissa Wallace, Conner Williams
- 7 James Anthony, Jr.
- 8 Ernice Bookout
- 9 Tommy Adkins, Jerry Dickson, Bobby Walker
- 11 Jim Conrad, Kristy Melton
- 14 Tyler Hamm
- 15 Reggie Clawson
- 16 Charlotte Gould, Micah Hancock
- 18 Martina Russell
- 21 Ginger Dewey, Melanie Dover, Ina Oates
- 24 Buddy Clawson
- 27 Eddie smith
- 28 Robert Fulmer, Roy Glover
- 29 Carson Smith
- 31 Liz Blackwell, Kim Johnson

### Feed the Hungry: Mobile Food Pantry Sites

December 14: 9:00 am - Jerusalem Baptist Church,  
435 Farris Rd., Clover

December 30: 9:00 am - Green Pond UMC,  
983 Bethel St., Clover

Thank you in advance for your assistance with these  
pantries. Questions? Call Catawba Area Agency on  
Aging (803)329-9670

### November Church Attendance

11/01/20	40
11/08/20	44
11/15/20	44
11/22/20	47
11/29/20	33

### December Calendar:

Tues., Dec. 1:	7:00 pm Cub Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH 7:30 pm PNC Committee - Ladies' Parlor
Wed., Dec. 2:	10:00 am Morning Circle - FH 6:30 pm Wednesday Dinner - FH
Thurs., Dec. 3:	4:00 pm Bible Study - FH
Sat., Dec. 4:	10:00 am Evening Circle - Home of Trudy Amick
Sun., Dec. 5:	10:00 am - Worship Children's Church - FH
Mon., Dec. 7:	7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH
Tues., Dec. 8:	7:00 pm Cub Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH
Wed., Dec. 9:	6:30 pm - Wednesday Dinner - FH
Thurs., Dec. 10:	4:00 pm Bible Study - FH
Sun., Dec. 13:	10:00 am - Worship with Carols Children's Church - FH
Mon., Dec. 14:	7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH
Tues., Dec. 15:	7:00 pm - Cub Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH
Wed., Dec. 16:	6:30 pm - Wednesday Dinner - FH
Thurs., Dec. 17:	4:00 pm - Bible Study - FH
Sun., Dec. 20:	10:00 am - Worship Children's Church - FH
Mon., Dec. 21:	7:00 pm - Boy Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH
Tues., Dec. 22:	7:00 pm - Cub Scouts - Picnic Shelter/FH
Thurs., Dec. 24:	5:15 pm - Candlelight Memorial Service 6:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service
Sun., Dec. 27:	10:00 pm - Worship Children's Church

# Remember in Prayer

## At Bethesda

Margaret Moore  
 Lou Anne Hildebrand (back pain)  
 Ray Johnson (Westminster)  
 Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)  
 Cheryl Hughes (spine surgery)  
 Anita Ferguson Buffolino  
 Bill Dover  
 Michelle Melton  
 Sonny Moore  
 Steve Rawdon  
 PNC Committee

## Homebound

Billie Ann Burton  
 Robert Jones

## Deaths

Family and friends of  
 Patsy Walker, 11/3/20  
  
 Family and friends of  
 Phil Hughes, 11/21/20

## Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and  
 Tito Palacios (La Mision)

## *Congratulations*

Congratulations to David and Esther Bailey on the birth of their great granddaughter, Skylar Gracelyn Bailey, daughter of Zack and Jessica Bailey, born November 20, 2020!

## *Thank You*

**The Walker Family wants to express their gratitude to the Bethesda Church, CDC, and Community for the outpouring of love and support during the recent passing of Patsy B. Walker.**

## In the Community and Beyond

Bert Thrower (Donna's brother-in-law)  
 Brian Hughes (in North Dakota) - Covid/Pneumonia  
 Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)  
 Josh Turney, Doris Jonas' grandson  
 Shay Turney, Doris Jonas' daughter  
 Ella Kingston (Lou Anne's 2 yr. old friend ( genetic disorder)  
 Karen Starkey, cancer  
 Mary Parkman (friend of Walkers) stomach cancer  
 Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)  
 Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)  
 Ed Beam (Cecelia Alexander's brother-in-law)  
 Ellen Green  
 Scott McDaniel (Bill Dover's son-in-law)  
 Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus  
 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)  
 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)  
 Tommy Ligon (Carol Hope's cousin - cancer)  
 Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)  
 Joe Ligon (Carol Hope's uncle) cancer  
 Mary Parkman (Walkers' friend) stomach cancer

# 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)

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

Dorothy Williamson

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son  
is given, and the government will be  
on his shoulders. And he will be  
called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace."*

*Isaiah 9:6*

## **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 - Karen Percival

Sexton - Donna Hagler