

January, 2022



Bethesda Banner

I spent part of Advent this year reading sections of the book *Walk Humbly*. It is a short text that is designed to be considered slowly and deliberately.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11 am

Visit

www.bethesdapres.org
for updates.



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

As we begin January, I want to share with you the author's take on Gratitude. He begins the section by saying, "*Gratitude is the moment we turn from seeing dependence as a burden and begin to see it as a gift. Gratitude is the window we are given into how dependence creates relationship.*" (1)

The author then recalls a detailed story for the reader about an old woman whose eyesight fails to such a degree that she needs her neighbor's child to assist her with reading the mail. From that simple act, the woman begins to see that so many aspects of her life are tied into this child's presence with her. What she anticipated as a burden for the child becomes an opportunity to reflect on the care provided by another person who enters a relationship.

Add to this notion that child's parents notice that their child spent so much time next door that a new relationship is formed between neighbors. All four people became dependent upon each other, in the story, and the new relationship, which began only as a utilitarian duty is now a coveted blessing by all. Our author reflects on this story, and how it shaped all of the individuals involved in it by saying:

"Dependence creates relationship, and relationship unearths untold gifts and assets and blessings and innovations. And gratitude names the process by which the deficits (of life) turn, through our becoming open to one another's gentle companionship and unexpected grace, into assets of discovery...So much of current cultural development tries to address the challenges and traumas of these two neighbors through solutions that can be bought with a card or accessed by a phone. But gratitude knows what such solutions never comprehend. What gratitude knows is that existence is made up of setbacks, mistakes, challenges, and obstacles, and it is in facing and tackling and sometimes enduring those adversities that mortality is discovered, dependence recognized, and relationship sought. And it is in such relationship, and the unanticipated benefits that accompany it, that true joy lies." (2)

In Advent God chose to offer us a relationship based on our future dependence upon Jesus. He chose to be with people who would not always agree or support him, and yet this was God's mission and purpose in sending Jesus for. He could have left us alone but God would not do that. Instead he built something, relationally, that would last for eternity.

As we move in the new year and begin our transition away from Christmas joy and love and peace and hope, I encourage you to take time, make some time, to reflect on the places where God used someone to draw you closer to Him.

It may have been a relationship you did not foster or anticipate, but now, after Advent, this can be a place to express gratitude to God for all that He has done for you and all that God will continue to do in your life.

Blessings,
Rev. Derek

1 Samuel Wells, *Walk Humbly: Encouragement for Living, Working, and Being* (Grand Rapids: Eerdsman Publishing, 2019), 18.

2 Ibid., 20.

Helping our neighbors:

Food Pantry - a basket will be available weekly in the vestibule for donations to the Food Pantry. There will also be a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the [Wednesday Night Dinners](#). Please bring non perishable food items to help us provide for the hungry. These items are distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund and also delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

The Benevolence Ministry provides assistance to those in the community in immediate need of emergency financial assistance. A burned out home, a loss of job, or a pending eviction, may all qualify depending upon what the background information may suggest. It caters to legitimate needs which may be ascertained with a combination of a benevolent heart and sound judgement. The Benevolence Team is made up of persons of good report, wisdom, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Funds are not given to those in need, but are paid to the billing party. **This Sunday, January 2, 2022**, in coordination with Communion is designated as Benevolence Giving Sunday. Please be generous in replenishing our resources for those in desperate situations

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen 2022 date: February 6, 2022 and April 4, 2022

Missions and Outreach Report—December, 2021

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

- Matching Fund Donation to Thornwell
- Christmas Meal, Pantry Items and a Cash Donation to Local Family
- Card Ministry

Donations to:

- Thornwell
- Presbyterian Home
- Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala
- The Matias Family in Brazil
- Special Christmas Eve Offering—Matching Fund Donation to Thornwell - \$1,052 was collected.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- 3 Baby Blankets Presented
- 1 Lap Afghan Presented

Community Support/Outreach:

- Elders and Church Sexton served at funeral of Paul Adkins, Brother in Law of Peggy Adkins
- Christmas Caroling to Homes of Church Members and Community Members
- Christmas Gifts for Local Family*—Sunday School classes collected donations of gifts and food to support a local family

Operation Christmas Child

- Church Members Donated Filled Shoeboxes and Processing Fees
- Group from Bethesda Worked at the Processing Center

Food Items Collected for Food Pantry

Archbishop Oscar Romero once said:

“We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. . . No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.”

Those words strike me as an understanding of Godly stewardship. As you consider your pledge cards for this year, I want you to remember that you and I are acknowledging our part, and our commitment, to the work of God at Bethesda. The work continues without us always seeing the end result.

I invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship, and your part of the ministry here at Bethesda.

Blessings

Rev. Derek

If you have not yet **pledged for 2022**, pledge cards are available in the Narthex or Church Office. You may also pledge by contacting Pat in the Church Office at **(803) 328-1360** or by e-mail at bethesda@comporium.net. Please help us attain our goal of 100% pledge participation.

Also, if you would like to set up your **pledge on a monthly bank draft**, please contact Pat, or Todd Russell at **(803) 417-0043** or email bethesdatreasurer@comporium.net. These drafts can be set up at no cost to the contributor or the Church.

Thank you, *The Stewardship Committee*

New Offering Envelopes for 2022 are now available. They have been placed in the mailboxes in the Church office and on the front pew. Please contact the Church Office if you do not receive offering envelopes, and would like some. 803-328-1360 or email bethesda@comporium.net.

January Verse to Remember

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

As you ponder these two verses, consider how they might become your New Year's Resolution. What difference would it make in your life and the world in

Thank You

With much heart-felt gratitude, I would like to thank everyone who has given me gifts and cards this Christmas season. I am so blessed to belong to such a wonderful, caring church. I especially want to thank all of you that were willing to participate in Bethesda's music ministry. I pray that 2022 will be a blessing for each of you.

LaRayne

We would like to thank the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful baby blanket. Sweet little Adalyn looks so cute wrapped up in it.

Thank you again,

The Melton family

To the ladies of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church Prayer Shawl Circle and with special thanks to Ernice Bookout,

Thank you for your care and thoughtfulness in making such a beautiful crocheted baby blanket. I have wonderful memories of Bethesda as an extended "church home" over the years and the Gardner, McGill, and now Hider families are blessed by your gifts of hospitality and Christian love.

My prayers for each of you to know more of the abundant grace of God this coming year!

With love,

Caroline Hider

This Christmas season has been a little crazy for us. Has it been for you?

We have faced emergency stitches, sickness, a water leak in our home, Christmas performances, fun ministry moments, new Christmas pets, and much more!

What a blessing it is to STOP everything and remember the true reason for the season!
JESUS coming to earth to redeem His people!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Matias family!

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."**

Luke 2:14



January Birthdays



- 1 Ricky Simpson, JoEllen Smith
- 2 Stacey Coleman
- 9 David Johnson
- 13 Claire Williamson
- 16 Adam Cole
- 17 Steve Childers, Linda Messer
- 18 Debbie Fulmer
- 19 Zach Costner
- 21 Cathy Goodband
- 22 Bobbie Kaye Hagler
- 25 Austin Johnson
- 26 Alan Smith, Jr.
- 27 Jim Bookout
- 29 Kelly Williamson
- 31 Johnny Walker

December Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Online Worship
12/05/21	66	35	24
12/12/21	82	36	38
12/19/21	104	34	76
12/24/21	93 Christmas Eve		13
12/26/21	54	29	

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Jim & Hildegard Bell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Ina Oates - under Hospice care at home
Krystal Jordan - testing & eye surgery at Duke
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Steve & Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Karen Percival - broken foot
Valerie Bull– surgery for broken arm

Births:

Roman Kyle McDaniel, son of Matthew & Lauren McDaniel and great-grandson of
Adalyn Kate Melton, daughter of Blake Melton & Haily Waldo and great-granddaughter of Deloras & Ken Melton, 11/12/21
Sutton Leigh Teno, daughter of Daniel & Allison Teno and granddaughter of Drew & Donna Hagler, 12/14/21

Deaths:

Jessie Mitchell, 12/2/21
Nick, 12/2/21 (classmate of Emma Marotta)
Paul Adkins, 12/7/21

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Mary Baird (friend of Susan Hibbard)
Hugh Moore (Nancy's brother)
Betty Jean Walker Feindel
Charles Gantt (Edie's brother)
Rowdy Jordan (Crystal's father)
Randy Ransom
Sharon Gable
Jim Hodnett
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Sturgis (Percival's friend) pancreatic cancer
John Rogers (Tara's dad)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Sawyer Long (Jeff & Kim Parrish's grandson) cancer
Ottis Wagner
Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)
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)
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)
Bryan Good (Debbie Darby's brother)
Eddie Gregory (cancer)
Karen Blaikie (Doug's sister-in-law - cancer)
Linda Strauss (Eddie & Nancy Smith's friend, stage 4 cancer)

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God."*

Philippians 4:6

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Highway

York, SC 29745

Phone: (803)328-1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:

Rev. Derek Marotta

Our Elders:

Alberta Anthony

Ernice Bookout

Mark Boyd

Sarah Childers

Jimmy Darby

Cheryl Forlines

Susan Hibbard

Irvin Jones

Linda Messer

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

Dorothy Williamson

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
the old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17*

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:

Pastor - Derek Marotta

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler