

September, 2022



Bethesda Banner

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*

I don't know why, but recently God and I have been spending time in reading stories of ministers and churches that have seemed to 'miss the mark.' Perhaps that is not the best descriptor of these stories, but I struggle to find words that nicely say something like: *"churches and ministers who have totally screwed up and wounded the sheep they are entrusted with fully and totally thereby causing wounds that take generations to properly heal if they even heal at all."*

(Personally, I like my first attempt at it better. . .)

I read stories with God about a minister who wouldn't officiate at a wedding because the bride-to-be didn't have a left ring finger. His rationale was simple: no ring finger to place the ring on, then no wedding. The pain this caused lasted decades for the bride-to-be. I don't know if she ever returned to the church.

Another priest, while counseling a woman who was seeking a divorce, asked her if she was lying to God when she made her covenant at the altar on her wedding day. In this case, the lack of pastoral sensitivity shocks me. This person was sitting before her trusted church leader and he could not find a way to offer her the grace of God!

A third story I read presented the reader with a question. Did we agree with the archbishop and the Queen of England when they forbid Princess Margaret from marrying Peter Townsend? The woman who asked the pastor this question wondered about it for decades and it served to color her own experience of God.

I imagine you are familiar with stories yourself of moments when the church, or its leadership, harms the Body of Christ—sometimes intentional and sometimes accidental. But these stories presents us with an opportunity to extend grace and be instruments of healing. If we know people who have been wounded by the church or its leadership, whether deliberate or not, then I wonder what we could do to help care for each other in those moments? For God asks us each to help care for His children.

Is the church's only mission to care for each other in worship? Or are we called by God to be present in the lives of the wounded—even if we have be privy to the wounding?

For a church that is open about how it has wounded each other is a church that seeks the healing of God as revealed to them through scripture and manifested in the person of Jesus Christ. I hope this month you will be aware as you walk through life of the places and people who have been forgotten and hurt. I wonder if you might have a valuable story to share with them, and by sharing that story, the two of you grow closer to God.

Blessings

Helping our neighbors:

Food Pantry - a basket is available weekly in the vestibule for donations to the Food Pantry. There is also be a basket in the Fellowship Hall.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen 2022: Make plans to help serve at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen on September 25. You can come at 2 pm to help cook, 4 pm to help serve, 5 pm to help clean up or plan to stay the entire time. We have been serving around 100 folks so we need all the help we can get! We will also serve on 12/11/22.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report—August 2022

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Card Ministry

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Two Lap Afghans Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Meals provided for a member and family recuperating from Covid.

Food Items Collected for Food Pantry

Benevolence Fund

Provided Assistance to One Family

Scouting Ministry

Eagle Scout Projects

Denny Davis—Blessing Box

Logan Baker—Clearing Four Feet Back from Cemetery Wall

Child Development Center

Better Together Mission Fair

The Presbytery wide Mission Fair begins at 10:00 AM on Saturday September 10th at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, concluding at 2:30 PM with a worship service. The California Grille Food Truck from York will be on site selling food, we also hope to have ice cream and coffee vendors. There will also be mission fund raising products from churches on sale. The schedule is as follows:

9:00- Set up

10:00- Start

11:00- Kids For Christ Hermon Presbyterian Church

12:00- Youth Group Activities to begin

12:30- Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church Bell Choir

1:30- Sounds of Grace Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Y)

2:30- Closing Worship



After taking a break for a couple of months during the summer, Bethesda PW Circles will begin meeting after Labor Day. Morning Circle will meet Thursday, September 8; Evening Circle will meet Monday, September 12. Morning Circle meets at 10 am in Fellowship Hall; Evening Circle meets at 6 pm in Session Room. If you are interested in learning about circles and the PW, you are cordially invited to visit either or both circles.

From PW Purpose: "Forgiven and Freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study."

Presbyterian Women of Providence Presbytery will hold its Spiritual Gathering on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at Hermon Presbyterian Church, 107 Heckle Blvd, Rock Hill. Registration and breakfast will start at 8:30 am followed by program from 9:45-11:30 am. Cost of breakfast is \$8.50. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill.

Session Highlights for August 2022

The Session met on Sunday August 21, 2022. Nine of twelve members were present. Reverend Marotta provide a working session for Elders to reflect on Mark 6:1-6. The Session then participated in a spiritual exercise in discernment by reflecting on who we are at Bethesda. The monthly financial report and committee reports were received as information.

The following committee highlights are reported.

Property Committee:

A motion was approved to place a plaque of dedication on the door of the recently refurbished parlor room (old DCE office) to recognize the contribution of the furnishings donated by the Burton family.

A motion was approved by the Session to move the cost of the 2010 Chevrolet Bus off the Church budget and add to the CDC budget

A motion was approved by the Session to contract with Morgan and Sons Tree Care to remove the dead Oak over Well House for \$650.00 and to trim and remove trees which pose a danger to the side of the Family Life Center for \$4250.00

Worship Committee

A motion was approved for Bethesda to host the community Thanksgiving service for the community.

Pastor's Report:

A motion was approved for the Baptism for Adley Costner, daughter of Abby and Zack Costner on Sunday September 18th.

The pastor provided a report of needs of the congregation asking for prayer, attention and support of the affected families.

*John Nettles
Clerk of Session*

Scouting Signals



Two Eagle Scout Projects have been completed here at Bethesda:

Blessing Box—A Blessing Box has been placed near the mailboxes in the driveway of the church. This Blessing Box is the Eagle Scout Project of Denny Davis of our Boy Scout Troop 161. This box presents an opportunity for us to share with those who may be in need. We can all join together to keep it filled with sealed, nonperishable food and pantry items. Anyone who needs these items will then be free to take what they need. Your support of this project will be greatly appreciated.

“Take what you need; Give what you can”



Cemetery Wall Clearing: - The Eagle Scout Project of Logan Baker of our Boy Scout Troop 161 has been completed. Logan cleared off 4 feet back from the entire cemetery rock wall.



Thanks to these two scouts for organizing and carrying out these projects as a service to Bethesda and the community.

Thank you!

Thank you for hosting the recent blood drive at Bethesda in honor of Rachel Ann. There were 37 people attending and 34 pints (including 2 doubles) were collected. Rachel Ann has used and will continue to need many blood products throughout the next 2 -3 years of treatment for leukemia. The Blood Connection donates towards her medical bills for every donation. We are so appreciative.

The Taylor Family

Thank you for all the prayers, love and support you have shown our family since our 2 year old granddaughter, Rachel Ann Taylor, has been diagnosed with leukemia. Thanks also to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the afghan that they made for her. It is beautiful and she really likes it. Thanks also to the Congregational Life Committee for setting up a blood drive here at Bethesda on August 23. Rachel has already been helped by receiving blood and platelets. We appreciate your prayers and support for Rachel Ann and her parents, Daniel & Hannah and the entire family.

Love, Pat Jones

For the past two years you of Bethesda have poured out love and kindness to me and I have been remiss in not acknowledging it. I still feel it now as I start radiation for lung cancer. With God's grace and your prayers we will defeat it. The prayer shawl I was presented is perfect. Blue, ivory and tan are my colors and it fits me and my couch to a "T". Thank you.

Love to you all and God bless,

Nell Glover

September Verse to Remember

"All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17.



September Birthdays



1	Stephanie Barton
2	Anne Sanford
3	Randy Neely
4	Addison Johnson
5	Esther Bailey, Drew Hagler
6	Cole Johnston
7	Bill Russell, Jr.
10	Emma Marotta, Kylee Rockholt
15	Doris Jonas
17	Jordan Hose
21	Jim Carter, Sr., Chris Dewey
22	Mark Boyd, Jackie Johnson, Myra Smith
28	Lou Beaty, David Hibbard
30	Pam McKinney

August Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School	Online Worship Views
8/7/22	58	30	30
8/14/22	46	22	23
8/21/22	55	30	8
8/28/22	46	19	Not available

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Esther Bailey
LaRayne Hall
Nell Glover
Margaret Moore
Nettie R. Daves
Bobby Moore
Irvin and Gail Jones
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Doris Jonas - heart
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Krystal Jordan - testing & eye surgery at Duke
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)

Deaths

Beverly Carol Dunlap, 8-2-22 (Burial Bethesda Cemetery on 8-8-22)
Shirley Harris, 8-14-22

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Gracie Arnold,
Esther Bailey, Jamie Baker, Algeria Ervin,
Catherine Goodband, Stacy Meek, Janice Meeks,
Tracy Eddinger, Elizabeth Martin, Kennedy Brown,
Aliah Hagy, Zoe Dasota.

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe Davis, Morgan Drayton, Sully Foy, Nicholas McAteer, Alyarda Thompson, Michael Wilkerson

In the Community and Beyond

Rimica Brown
Kenny Good
Ed & Sara Jennings
Brittany Teter
Lewis Whisonant
Evelyn Williams
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt, leukemia)
Memory Jordan
Shelly Palmer
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Rowdy Jordan (Crystal's father)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Heath, cancer (3 yr. old friend of Tara Rogers)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-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)

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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

"The harvest is plentiful
but the workers are few.

Ask the Lord of the
harvest, therefore, to send
out workers into his
harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38

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