

May, 2022



Bethesda Banner

On May 1st we will celebrate Homecoming at Bethesda. The invitations have been sent out. Calls made and the planning, as of this moment, is complete. There is a sense of anticipation and expectation growing around the church this week.

I *hope* that Homecoming is a meaningful weekend for us at the church. I hope we feel blessed as I also hope that we notice how God is close at hand throughout all that we have planned and implemented. Finally I hope that our worship and fellowship is meaningful and helps us grow closer together as a large community.

With this in mind, I was reading a book by M. Craig Barnes, the president of Princeton Theological Seminary and former teacher of mine in Pittsburgh, entitled: *Searching for Home Spirituality for Restless Souls*. As the title suggests, Craig undertakes a study of what the concept of 'home' looks like. We might be pressing on bravely in our lives as we search for God, moving from one job to new town to bigger house, but the truth is many of us feel that we are lost.

Midway through this book, Craig writes these words that I feel are applicable as we consider Homecoming and all that it can mean for our lives:

"I am always dismayed to find people who do the hard work of confessing the truth of how lost they've become, maybe even getting to the bottom of it, but they stop there and never head for home. . . No sin is greater than being too proud to come home once grace has made a way."

I wonder why do we not come home? Regardless of how we define home—home church, hometown, home with God, home with extended family, home with our new family—why do we hesitate to come home when the invitation is presented to us so often?

These are hard questions to consider. They ask us, as we wonder about home, to also wonder if we are lost? So lost that our lives resemble the Prodigal Son who didn't realize the impact of the choices that we have made. These questions make us wonder if we have become so lost, by our personal choices, that we cannot find a way home.

I am thankful that God is present for us in these moments. As you think about Homecoming here at Bethesda and reflect on it, perhaps take a moment and notice if you are lost or if you feel lost? God might be showing you this truth to bring you home yet again. . .

Blessings
Rev. Derek

1 M. Craig Barnes, *Searching for Home: Spirituality for Restless Souls* (Brazos Press: Grand Rapids, 2003), 89

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*

April 28, 2022

Dear Derek and Bethesda Presbyterian,

Greetings to you all as you celebrate 252 years of ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), and all its former titles. In those years, you have and continue to minister within the community of McConnells, as well as beyond your community, sharing the Gospel nationally and internationally.

We regret that we cannot be with you today. As you all are sharing in the celebration today, we are flying to a Mid-Council Leadership seminar for the week, in service to the congregations of Providence Presbytery and to the larger church. We thank you for the invitation and wish we could be there bringing personal greetings.

Bethesda has maintained ministries through the years, touching many, many people and branching beyond your campus, declaring that the Good News is alive and being shared. This ripple effect beyond local work, has given many a new start. Your mission dollars have gone to feed people, helped with the eye clinic, and other ministries which have changed lives. Often, we never see what good works we have done, but we give thanks and praise to God for them all. We thank you for the centuries of commitment to the Presbyterian Church, and your work with the presbytery as we envision what ministry will be as the 21st Century progresses.

Homecomings are times when people come together, sharing memories and their connected bond of love and service to God. Homecomings remind us of our connectional nature, and our connectional faith might have a deeper meaning this year than before. We hope that you all have a wonderful day, and that Bethesda Presbyterian will continue in ministry for centuries to come.

Peace,

Hoover and Olivia Haney

Update on Special Offering for Ukraine

Thank you to all who contributed to the Special Offering collected at the Maundy Thursday Service to benefit Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees. We are very pleased to report that members of Bethesda generously contributed over \$600 for this Special Offering through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). One hundred percent of the funds contributed went directly to assist Ukrainians in need at this time. When combined with other contributions donated by groups and individuals within the church, members of Bethesda have contributed over \$1,000 to this cause. Thank you for reaching out to those in urgent need during this humanitarian crisis.

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.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen 2022 dates: 7/10/22, 9/25/22, 12/11/22

Feed the Hungry: Mobile Food Pantry Sites Ma7 2022

May 2: 9:00 am- Freedom Temple, 215 East Main St., Rock Hill

May 27: 9:00 am- Unity Presbyterian, 303 Tom Hall St. Fort Mil

Missions and Outreach Report - April 2022

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Card Ministry

Donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Ukraine from the Evening Circle

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Special Offering on Maundy Thursday for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Ukraine

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1 Prayer Shawl Presented

1 Lap Afghan Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Prepared and Delivered Meals to Individuals

Members Prepared and Served Dinner at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

Food Items Collected for Food Pantry

87.5 Pounds of Food Donated to PATH

Benevolence Fund

Scouting Ministry

Child Development Center

Christian Education/Youth Committee Provided Holy Week Bags for Each Child

Maundy Thursday Service Held in the Sanctuary for the Children

Session Highlights for April, 2022

The Session met on Sunday April 24, 2022. Nine of twelve members were present. Reverend Marotta provided a working session for Elders to reflect on 1 John 1:1-7. The Session then participated in a spiritual exercise in discernment by identifying topics that the session should spend time with that could lead to transformation in the church. The monthly financial report and committee reports were received as information.

The following committee highlights are reported.

Stewardship Administrative Committee

The Committee is investigating a means to provide on-line giving to our social media presence.

Actions:

The Session approved a request to **remove** the addendum which had been added to the Facility Use Policy fee schedule adding an additional fee for COVID special cleaning to facility rentals. The Session approved a request to clarify the language in the Facility Use Police related to the reservation deposit and the cleaning fee for Fellowship Hall rentals.

Property Committee:

Cemetery records software has been installed on a dedicated computer to be installed in the church office.

Pastor's Report: The pastor has been working with several families who wish to join the fellowship at Bethesda. The Session is in the process of receiving letters of transfer and a date for joining and introduction.

*John Nettles
Clerk of Session*

A Note from the Church Nominating Committee:

After a time of prayer and listening, the nominating committee feels that it is both appropriate and God's will to nominate on 3 Rulings Elder for the class of 2025 rather than the traditional 4.

With this general introduction, here are their general comments and rationale for this choice:

“It was stated and determined that three elders were necessary for the church leadership and operation for this year. The number could be increased to five next year to balance the class out or a special election could be called later this year to fill the class back to four. The basis for this request was due to the reduction of active participation by members in church activities and worship. This reduction was made because it was difficult to identify potential nominees willing, able, and qualified to serve as Ruling Elders. The Session was consulted and agreed with this decision. Therefore we nominate by committee members the following individuals:

Debbie Fulmer
Stacy Russell
Jim Percival

At a congregational meeting in June, we hope to formally approve this slate.

Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will meet each Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



The Worship Committee needs the names and school information for any **2022 graduates**. If you know anyone who is graduating, please give names and information to **Dorothy Williamson** or **Alberta Anthony** before May 10.

Sunday worship is available on the YouTube channel on our website, www.bethesdapres.org. Check the Bethesda website for updates, information and family resources.

May Verse to Remember

**“Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when the Lord’s people live
together in unity.”**

Psalm 133:1

Thank you!

I would like to thank my church family for all of the prayers, cards and food after my surgery. I am doing well and am glad to be back at church! God is good!

Steve Childers



May Birthdays



1	Kitty Sharpe
2	Patt Lauckner
3	Lisa Hagler, Christy Johnston
8	Christopher Blaikie
10	Cheryl Forlines, Nell Glover, Cadence Lackey
11	Jean Blaikie
14	Gene Williamson
17	Hailey Carter
19	Josiah Walker
20	Lily Hull, Logan Johnston
21	Sully Foy
23	Donavon Burns
27	Deanna Johnson
29	Lauren Hibbard

	April Attendance			
	Worship	Sunday School	Online Worship Views	Pastor's Bible Study In-person on-line
4/3/22	53	33	23	
4/3/22 Installation	58			
4/10/22	57	33	20	
4/14/22 Maundy Thursday	79			
4/17/22 Sunrise	67			
4/17/22	104	22	30	
4/21/22				8 20
4/24/22	47	28	N/A	

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Bobby Walker– in-patient rehab facility
Doris Jonas - heart
David Hibbard
Eddie Smith - heart
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)

Deaths

Ellen Green, 4/3/22
John Rogers, 4/6/22

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Gracie Arnold,
Esther Bailey, Jamie Baker, Ginger Cannon, Algeria Ervin,
Catherine Goodband, Stacy Meek, Janice Meeks,
Tracy Modispaugh, Elizabeth Martin.

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Blakely Percival
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt, leukemia)
Memory Jordan
David Miller
George Stabler
Shelly Palmer
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Rowdy Jordan (Crystal's father)
Sharon Gable
Jim Hodnett
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
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)
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)

In the Military:

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

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

*"But seek first the
kingdom of God and
His righteousness,
and all these things
will be added to you."
Matthew 6:33*

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