

January, 2023



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*

In the office, on the desk adjacent to Pat's, sits a small tin bucket. This little bucket, which is only about three inches tall has a painted jolly face upon it—Santa. The little bucket has been sitting on the desk for a couple weeks now. Truth be told, I do not remember exactly when it arrived; I only remembering it sitting there inviting me to stop over.

Inside the bucket is an assortment of candy canes; they stick out from every direction. Red and white. Green and white. And assorted combinations of colors. . . nearly every combination under the rainbow sits there on the desk next to Pat's desk inviting me to enjoy them.

Each day the bucket has tempted me to grab one; it has called to me. Invited me to enjoy a candy cane. They are pure sugar and they will taste good, but my resolve has not wavered. All of the candy canes still sit in the bucket. Emma has enjoyed a couple of candy canes during the Christmas season.

I just learned today that the flavors of candy canes vary from traditional peppermint to 'skittles-flavored.' Upon hearing the news I thought, 'hum, that sounds interesting.' But I still have not eaten one. That is until about 30 minutes ago.

Unwrapping a candy cane that is colored a mixture of blues, pinks, reds, and yellowish-oranges, I snap off a piece and popped it into my mouth. 'Yep,' I said to no one in particular in the office, 'that's a skittles one.'

Truthfully I am not much of a candy cane connoisseur. They are messy and sticky. I have tried for 47 years to eat candy canes and not make a mess, and yet I cannot figure out how to do this without pounding them into pieces. So I just stay away and let Emma or someone else enjoy them.

But this skittles candy cane is good. Its tasty—not too sweet and not to tart. I may grab one tomorrow as I walk into the office. Maybe a whole new world has opened up to me because I enjoyed this one candy cane, in what I thought, was a one-time practice/experience. Maybe I will come to love candy canes just because I stopped by this bucket and grabbed one. . .

In this way I wonder if there is something, some discipline or practice of the Christian faith, that God might be offering you this year that you have been hesitant to try?

You may have tried it before and you may feel that you are no good at it. You did the way you were taught, and yet you 'made a mess' of the practice and resolved not to try again.

But I wonder, as the New Year begins, could God be presenting you with your own tiny bucket of Christian practices? Something that could grow your faith? You won't know if you don't grab one from the bucket and give it a try. . .

Blessings
Rev. Derek

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 - Please mark your calendars for these dates and make plans to help.
February 19, 2023 and May 14, 2023

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report—December, 2022

Presbyterian Women's Circles:

Card Ministry

Cash/Gift Card Donations to Local Family (Morning Circle and Evening Circle)

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Christmas Joy Offering

Prayer Shawl Ministry

One Baby Blanket Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Christmas Eve Service

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Meals for Members

Christmas Caroling—Members Participated in Christmas Caroling at the Homes of Church Members and Community Members

Community Support/Outreach:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen—Members Prepared and Served Free Meals at Covenant Presbyterian Church

Angel Tree/Christmas Gifts for Local Family

Food Items Collected for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

Scouting Ministry

Child Development Center

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. **Next Sunday, January 8, 2023**, in coordination with Communion is designated as Benevolence Giving Sunday. Please be generous in replenishing our resources for those in desperate situations



There will be a Blood Drive on January 10, 2023 from 2 pm until 7 pm in honor of Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) who has leukemia. You may sign up through this sign up genius address: [Bethesda: Blood Drive in honor of Rachel Ann Taylor \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/show/Bethesda%20Blood%20Drive%20in%20honor%20of%20Rachel%20Ann%20Taylor) For every pint of blood donated, The Blood Connection will donate money to go towards Rachel Ann's medical bills.

Leaderfest is Coming! Providence Presbytery will be offering an opportunity for folks in our congregations to gather for learning, connecting, and growing in faith! Leaderfest 2023 will take place on Sunday, FEBRUARY 26 from 1:30-5 pm at First Presbyterian in Rock Hill. Workshops will be available for new and returning elders, folks who work with stewardship, missions, Sunday School, music, and much, much more! Youth are welcome to sign up for workshops; elementary children will have "camp for the day" and there will be childcare for the youngest participants. There is NO CHARGE for this event, and something to engage everyone's interest. Go to <https://providencepres.org/leaderfest-2023/> for workshop descriptions and don't forget to register starting January 1! (Class sizes are limited, so be sure to register early!)

New Offering Envelopes for 2023 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 at 803-328-1360 or email bethesda@comporium.net

Upcoming events:

The church office and CDC will be closed on Monday, January 1.

Choir Practice will resume on Wednesday, January 4 at 5:30.

Wednesday Night Dinner will resume on Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

The Morning Circle will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, January 5 in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study will meet at 4:30 pm on Thursday, January 5 in the Fellowship Hall.



Thank you!

Dear Carolers,

Thank you for singing to us here at Westminster Towers. I enjoyed it immensely and after you left, several residents made complimentary comments about you. Some of them said they enjoyed singing along with you.

Thank you for thinking of us and taking time to brighten up our Sunday afternoon with good Christmas cheer!

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas,
Kathy Jagers

Dear BPC,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$534 made to Tender Hearts Ministry in November. Your donation will help many individuals and families through our community outreach program. We do not take your generosity lightly, and we are sincerely appreciative of your friendship and support for community during this time.

Tender Hearts Ministries is a non-profit and includes three thrift stores, community outreach events, and a shelter for homeless women and their children. Tender Hearts Ministries exists so that those in need may receive food, clothing, shelter and access to local human service agencies, educational opportunities and compassion. Our purpose is to provide individuals and families of the community with needed temporary assistance with food and clothing; to provide women and children in crisis situations with food, clothing and temporary shelter, as well as Biblical counseling and financial and job training; and to provide, through donations and volunteer operation, thrift stores in which persons of all economic standards in our community can shop.

Thank you for helping us help others. You are a blessing to so many!

Keeping a tender heart toward those in need,
Ainslee Moss
President
Tender Hearts Ministries

I would like to thank all of the ladies involved with the making of my prayer shawl. I have and am enjoying it on these cool mornings. It sure makes a person feel good to know there are still some thoughtful people left in this world.

Thanks to all,
Harris Smith

Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket for Baby Bender! Andrew and I are so grateful for your thoughtfulness as we prepare to become parents. Jim and Lisa Percival have found such a close knit church family at Bethesda. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas!

Thank you,
Alex and Andrew Bender

January Verse to Remember

**“Behold I am the lord,
the God of all flesh. Is anything
too hard for me?”**

Jeremiah 32:27



SCOUTING SIGNALS
JANUARY 2023

In December Josh Adkins passed his Board of Review for his Eagle Scout award. Josh makes the sixth scout in Troop 161 to earn their Eagle in 2022. Josh becomes the 48th Eagle Scout in Troop 161's tenure. Congratulations to Josh and all our 2022 Eagle Scouts.

On December 19th We conducted an Eagle Scout presentation ceremony for Brett and Wyatt Johnston and Zack Sweat. These three scouts are in college and were home on break, so we were able to make their presentation.

On February 5th the troop will celebrate Scout Sunday and present Eagle Scout awards to Josh Adkins, Logan Baker, and Denny Davis immediately following worship service in the sanctuary. This presentation will be followed by a reception. We are making an effort to invite all the Eagle scouts from our troop's history to attend this presentation and reception.

December marks the end of our Boy Scouting program at Bethesda. Bethesda has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop for the past fifty-two years. Many young boys have grown into exemplary and faithful young men, fathers, and leaders in our community and across the land. At Bethesda we are honored and proud to have been a part of their formative years and having a part in the development of their character through the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Scouting programs. Pack and Troop 161 would like to express sincere appreciation to the Bethesda Men of the Church and the congregation of Bethesda for the years of support provided to this ministry.

Through our fifty-two-year history scouts have served as summer camp counselors, attended National Jamborees, traveled to the Canadian backwaters, climbed through, and spent the night in the darkest caves and numerous other regional and national educational tours. Of course, we also spent a night or two in the rain.

The Scouting ministry at Bethesda not only served the families in our congregation but primarily families from the western York County area. In recent years our scouting programs were led weekly by adults and families from outside of our congregation as we offered our facilities as a chartering organizational partner to support the Scouting program in York District. Bethesda has stated to the Palmetto Council if the need should arise in the future that we would again consider being a chartering organization. While the embers may burn low this winter, the fires of the spirit, heart and memories of Bethesda Pack and Troop 161 continue to burn bright. Thanks to all for making this journey possible.

John Nettles

Troop Committee Chair Troop 161

Daniel Adkins – Scoutmaster

Wade Baker – Asst. Scoutmaster.

Tina Davis – Troop Committee

Johnny Walker – Troop Committee

Bobby Walker – Troop Committee

Former Scoutmasters

Harold Walker – Troop Organizer 1969

Chuck Barton

Johnny Walker

Bob Dragner

John Nettles

Steve Kay

Lenny Teska

Bob Niehaus



January Birthdays



1	Ricky Simpson, JoEllen Smith
2	Stacey Coleman
4	George Freeman, Jr.
9	David Johnson
13	Claire Williamson
16	Adam Cole
17	Steve Childers, Linda Messer, Janie Stallard
18	Debbie Fulmer
19	Zach Costner
21	Cathy Goodband
22	Bobbie Kay Hagler
25	Austin Johnson
26	Alan Smith, Jr.
27	Jim Bookout
28	Jesse Merritt
29	Kelsey Privette, Kelly Williamson
31	Johnny Walker

December Attendance

	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study</u>
12/4/22	69	30		23
12/11/22	66	22	18	4
12/18/22	92	none	49	4
12/24/22	105 (Christmas Eve)		30	N/A
12/25/22	48	none	N/A	N/A

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Lilly Hull (Nettles)
Nell Glover
Margaret Moore
Bobby Moore
Irvin Jones
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Doris Jonas - eyes
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meeks (CDC)

Births:

Rory Allen Duke, (Bobby and Debbie Fulmer's grandson)
Walker Alexandra Loftin, (Joni & Johnny Walker's granddaughter)

Deaths:

Susan Delight Scoggins Harmon 11-16-22 (Burial Bethesda Cemetery 12-8-22)

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.

In the Community and Beyond

Noah Smith Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Debbie Crosby
Ron Saboley (Jackie Johnson's husband)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Ronnie (cancer) Adam's store manager
Rimica Brown (former CDC employee) cancer
Brittany Teter (Linda's granddaughter) pregnancy complications
Evelyn Williams (Donna's cousin)
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt, leukemia)
Memory Jordan (Ralph & Becky's friend) lung cancer
Shelly Palmer (Leslie's cousin) covid complications
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Vivian Fulmer (Bobby's mother)

In the Military:

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

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

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4858 McConnells Highway

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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