

September, 2023



Bethesda Banner

From a favorite book I read, I want to share with you the following words this month and ask you to think on them with me. As we think about them together, I wonder how we might respond to these words?

“I am afraid that in a few decades the Church will be accused of having failed in its most basic task: to offer men [and women] creative ways to communicate with the source of human life.”

Those words were written in 1972 by a Dutch theologian, pastor, teacher, and caregiver, and they feel as real, and applicable, to me as the first time I read them nearly 20 years ago while serving as a hospital chaplain. Like many prophetic voices in the Church, Henri Nouwen was decades ahead of his time and he spoke with the Lord.

Leaving behind parish ministry, Henri spent the remainder of his life as a caregiver. He chose presence over all other aspects of church ministry. In this work, God opened a new stream of revelation for the church to consider that is still bearing fruit to this day.

But a question stands before us now as we read Henri’s words: do we, at Bethesda, help others find creative ways to communicate with God?

If you read the chapters that come before the above quotation, then you will recognize that Henri saw the cultural shift that has taken place in the last few years around us. He saw how young people pull away from their families, their churches, their communities. He saw how they elevate their peer groups above all others.

He saw that an entire generation will question the history they have been given at home, and in the church, and they will opt for something that Henri believed leads to death. He believed that as an entire generation removed God from their lives, they would head down a path of isolation that is completely avoidable.

And the more time I spend thinking about Nouwen’s words above, the more I tend to agree with him.

This is why, as our new programming year begins in the fall we must diligently help others find ways to communicate with the Source of Life. And I know that this work can take many different forms.

From group work, to acts of service and education, and in diligent study of the Word of God, we must find ways to help others locate God in their lives. We cannot allow Henri’s words to be a cautionary tale that we let slip away.

When others around us pull away from God, our call must be all the more certain and strong. We cannot leave our community to figure this out alone, because our call has always been to point them back to Jesus—the only Person who provides life.

I wonder how this work might take up residence in your heart? And I wonder who God might bring before you, who needs to communicate with the Source of Life?

Blessings,
Derek

Henri J.M. Nouwen. *The Wounded Healer*. 38

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*

Helping our neighbors:

Please help replenish our "Blessing Box" and Food Pantry. Suggested items are non-perishable food items - peanut butter, jelly, canned meat or pasta items, spaghetti sauce, pasta, small cereal boxes, etc. A basket is available weekly in the vestibule for donations. There is also a basket in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to make contributions at the Wednesday Night Dinners. These items are used to fill the "Blessing Box", distributed to people who request help through the Bethesda Benevolence Fund, and delivered regularly to local food distribution organizations. Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Dates for the rest of the year are October 15 and December 31.

Plastic Recycling- We have collected enough plastics for our third bench! It will be delivered and assembled soon. We will continue to collect plastics for our fourth bench.

Second Harvest Food Pantry Dates

September 8 – St. Paul UMC – Clover & Kings Mt. Chapel UMC, 1130 Philbeck Rd., York 29745

October 13 – Jerusalem Baptist, 435 Farris Rd., Clover, SC 29710

November 10 – Hermon Presbyterian, 107 Heckle Blvd., Rock Hill, SC 29730

December 8 – Faith Presbyterian, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC 29707

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - August, 2023

Presbyterian Women:

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

Presented One Lap Afghan

Presented One Baby Blanket

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Members

Provided Assistance with Yard Work for Community Member

Community Support/Outreach

Food Items

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Food Distribution

Hosted Food Distribution on two dates and Provided 166 bags/boxes of food to 91 households, serving a total of 275 household members

Prepared Lunch for the Family of Bobby Moore following his Graveside Service

Prepared Lunch for the Family of Doris Jonas following her Funeral Service

Benevolence Fund

Provided Assistance for One Individual

Child Development Center

The church office and Child Development Center will be closed on Monday, September 4, for Labor Day.

Happening this week and beyond:

Tuesday, September 5 - The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
The Worship Committee will meet at 6:30 pm in the Session Room.

Thursday, September 7 - Morning Circle will meet at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.
Thursday Bible Study will meet at 6:00 pm in the Session Room.

Saturday, September 9 - Setup for Sunday with Mt. Zion in the Family Life Center.

On Sunday September 17, 2023, the Session has called a meeting of the congregation of Bethesda Presbyterian Church for the purpose of electing 3 Elders to the class of 2026. The Congregational Nominating Committee is submitting the following names as a slate of Elders for approval. Steve Childers, Linda Messer, and Laura Merritt. Additional names may be submitted from the floor with prior approval of the nominee.

We are excited to announce that our GriefShare seminar support group will begin September 17. We will meet on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. GriefShare is a 13 week video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might benefit from this seminar. For more information, feel free to contact Karen Percival at (803)517-2268, Cheryl Forlines at (803) 517-1476, or call the church office at (803)328- 1360.

We will have a GriefShare reunion for our previous participants. We will meet after church on September 17 and go to Sweet Caroline's for brunch. This will be an opportunity for the previous participants to get together and share ideas for the upcoming sessions that will begin that afternoon. Former participants are still welcomed and encouraged to attend the upcoming sessions.

Thank You!!

Pentecost Offering

We have received a letter of thanks from the PCUSA Office of Ministry and Support for the generous contribution of \$368.63 to the Pentecost Offering. These funds support the building up of the body of Christ through various programs and initiatives to encourage the development of young leaders.

**Providence Presbyterian Women's Fall Spiritual Gathering will be [October 7, 2023](#), at York First Presbyterian Church. Registration and breakfast starts at 8:30 am. Program starts at 9:30.
Speaker will be Rev. Cecelia Armstrong.**

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank Liz Blackwell. One of the ministries of the Congregational Life Committee is providing a meal or reception after the death of a church member for their family. Liz has coordinated these meals for the past six years. She now wants to pass this ministry on to someone else. If you have a passion for planning meals, this may be for you. If you have questions or are interested in this ministry, contact Sarah Childers.



Adult Sunday School Classes

The **Fellowship Bible Study class** is enriched by an in-depth study of scripture. Through our studies we seek to understand the nature and will of our Lord, nurturing our desire to grow in faith and service. We are currently focused on the often-misunderstood topic of intercessory prayer. Scripture calls to pray on behalf of one another so we understand we need to pray. But for many we just do not know what to pray and how to pray to draw the Lord into relationship with the most urgent needs in our lives. In our current study we seek to better understand the priority, purpose, and power of praying for God's presence in all aspects of our lives. Later this fall we will begin a new study into Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. If you have been considering joining or returning to a Bible study, we invite and welcome you to attend our small group Bible study. This class meets in the Session room. John Nettles is the teacher for this class.

The **Covenant class** gathers each week to read God's word and talk about it. Each Sunday, we read a different passage from the Bible and wonder how it shapes, impacts, challenges, and encourages us. We ask ourselves, "What does this text call us to do as individuals and as the church?" As a class we are living out what Paul said in Philippians 2, as we "work out our salvation with fear and trembling." We welcome all to come to our class. The Covenant class meets in the Ladies Parlor. Jim Percival is the teacher for this class.

Children's Class

Currently there is one class for all children. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at this time but will be returning to a classroom in the Sunday school building soon. The children's class focuses on learning about Jesus and how he loves us. We read about Bible characters such as Moses, David, and Joseph. The children are learning to navigate the Bible as they look up Scripture for the lesson. We welcome all children through fifth grade to join our class. The teachers for this class include Liz Blackwell, Ernice Bookout, Debbie Fulmer, Lisa Percival, and Susan Hibbard.

NEW CLASS Beginning September 17

We are excited to offer a new Sunday school class for youth and adults. This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. We will be using "The Wired Word" curriculum. This study uses a current news event which will be discussed. We will look to Scripture to see what the Bible says and how it applies to us. We encourage the young and young at heart to join our class. The teachers for this class include Jon Mark Marotta, Karen Percival, and Lou Anne Hildebrand.



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	Kylee Rockholt, Emma Marotta
17	Jordan Hose
21	Jim Carter, Sr., Chris Dewey
22	Mark Boyd, Myra Smith, Jackie Saboley
28	Lou Beaty, David Hibbard
30	Pam McKinney

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study</u>
8/6/23	52	26	9	6
8/13/23	35	21	31	N/A
8/20/23	48	24	20	10
8/27/23	46	30 (Rally Day)	13	14

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Cecilia Alexander
Jim & Lisa Percival
Margaret Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meek (CDC)
Janice Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell
Luke Johnson (back surgery, 5/9/23)

Birth - Sadie Hope Taylor, 7/31/23, daughter of Charly and Frank Taylor and great granddaughter of Carol Hope.

Deaths - Muriel Jones, 8/7/23

Bobby Moore, 8/7/23 (burial Church Cemetery
Graveside Service, 8/27/23)

Doris Jonas, 8/26/23 (funeral at Bethesda and
burial in Church Cemetery, 8/30/23)

Betty Broom, 8/28/23

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Esther Bailey,
Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband, Stacy Meek, Janice
Meeks, Tracy Eddinger, Elizabeth Martin, Aliah Hagy,
Natalie Ashe, Genevieve Herrington, Emily Hopkins,
Shelby Ashe..

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Community and Beyond

Mike Williams
Griffin (Marotta's nephew Axton's 11 year old friend)
Cheryl Hughes
Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Memory Jordan (Ralph & Becky's friend) lung cancer
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
Austin Oliver (Leslie Platt's nephew)
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
Edna Rhinehart (Carolyn Rockholt's sister)
Cherish Clark Walker (Krystal's friend) cancer
Dale Wray & mother, Peggy (Krystal's friend)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem
Marcie McCain (Jim & Lisa's friend) starting chemo
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer
Celeste Burns (son, Brantley Nichols died of drug overdose)
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-worker)
Abbie So (19 yr. old friend of Emma Marotta) heart failure
Tommy Harper (Sarah's dad)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)

In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda,
Pierce Dewey, Sully Foy,
Nicholas McAteer, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson

We Need Your Help!

We are having a benefit on Saturday, September 30th for Junie Nivens, a community member who needs a liver transplant. This outreach is another way for our church family to extend our helping hands to our community and show God's love.

It will be a full day at the church that begins at 10am!

There will be live music all day in the pavilion starting at 11:30am. We will host a craft fair, silent auction, and bake sale from 10-2pm with food trucks, inflatables for the children of the community, and many more things to look forward to.

A large majority of items have already been donated, but we still need a little more help from the church. So, we are asking for the following donations:

- Cases of water
- Bags of 1 oz chips
- Items for the bake sale

Donated items need to be at the church no later than Friday morning, September 29th. If you have any questions about donations, or if you want to help in some way, please contact the church office and we will sign you up!



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

Mark Boyd

Sarah Childers

Jimmy Darby

Cheryl Forlines

Debbie Fulmer

Susan Hibbard

Jim Percival

Stacy Russell

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

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