

May 2023



Bethesda Banner

Many years ago, my roommate and I went to a Christian conference in Detroit, Michigan. We gathered with a few hundred of our closest, and unmet, friends to hear our favorite preacher speak about God and God's word.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

4858 McConnells Hwy.

York, SC 29745

(803)328-1360

Somewhere in my office sits the notebook that I was given as part of the conference with my notes filling every page, and while I have not re-read the notes for years, every time I see the notebook I smile. I remember the power of that weekend with the Lord. I remember the depth of teaching that I heard and wanted to pass on.

Midway through the conference the speaker gave us a 'pathway' or a 'method' to help each of us lead someone through God's word and toward salvation. This was a version of the Roman-road that would take the person through the entire Bible and end with salvation and Jesus Christ. At that time, all we had to do was start at one designated spot and follow the path to its end.

I marked each verse in my Bible with a red pen—something I do not use to mark up my Bible normally. Then in the margin I would put the next verse in the path (as instructed), and the path would continue.

If memory serves there are about 15 red verse marked in my study Bible. But I have not followed the path through them since college.

Sunday School 9:45 am

Worship 11 am

Visit

www.bethesdapres.org
for updates.

But thinking about it today: I don't remember where the path starts in my Bible. Isn't that interesting....

I remember that the path is there in. I remember at the time noting the quality of the Biblical presentation and thinking that this path would work well to help someone find the Lord. But I don't know where it begins, and not only that, I have not figured out how to find the path since my study Bible is 2334 pages.

Do I flip through every page until I find the starting point? Do I list all the verses I find in red and then put them in order like a puzzle? How should I go about re-locating the path?

While I suspect that I will not solve this issue in a few moments, perhaps therein lies the lesson for you and I this month. Patience and persistence with God's word.



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

In the current issue of *Christian Century*, Yolanda Pierce writes about the joy and experience of re-reading familiar books from her library every year. Some of the texts are tear-stained; some marked up over and over again with varying colors of pen and highlighter. She concludes that it is the experience of a cherished text that speaks truth to her life and brings her back to these few books over and over again. They keep teaching her about God.

I know many of you have cherished devotional practices that you attend to each day, maybe this month, augment those practices. Maybe this month re-search your Bible for those cherished texts and words that speak life to you and notice how each of those verses shaped your life and how they might shape it again.

It will be a practice of patience and persistence for certain. But in that practice I wonder if the Lord might show you something new?

Blessings,
Rev. Derek

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 : Our next date to serve is May 14, which is Mother's Day but hunger doesn't stop for a holiday! Dates for the rest of the year are: July 30, October 15 and December 31.

Plastic Recycling- We are continuing to collect soft plastics to earn a third bench.



The total offering collected for **One Great Hour of Sharing** was \$915.45.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report - April, 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

One Great Hour of Sharing

Prayer Shawl Ministry

2 Baby Blankets Presented

1 Prayer Shawl/Lap Afghan Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Grief Share Weekly Support Group

Community Support/Outreach

Easter Egg Hunt

Food Items Collected

Collected Food Items for Food Pantry

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

Child Development Center



We have set the date for our Vacation Bible School. It will be June 26- June 29th. More information will be coming.

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve and get to know the children at church? We need volunteers to teach Children's Church during worship. We have volunteers through March. If you are interested in volunteering in April or May, please contact Susan Hibbard at sbhibbard@comporium.net or 803-322-4927. You can volunteer for a certain Sunday or for a month. Everything will be provided for you

As our GriefShare sessions have come to a close, I want to thank everyone who participated. Thank you to everyone who attended the meetings and your willingness to share your personal stories. We shared our struggles as well as our triumphs each week. It was wonderful to be able to connect with this group. As the weeks went on, we found we knew each other better, and there was a lot of laughter each week. Thank you also to everyone within the Bethesda family for your support as we started this new program. A special thanks to Cheryl Forlines for being such a wonderful facilitator through these sessions. Thanks also to Derek for helping us get this program started and supporting us through it. We hope to have another session in the fall. So, if anyone knows somebody who would benefit from this, please feel free to tell them about it. In Christ,
Karen

The Worship Committee requests your help to update the mailing list for the Bethesda Banner and the weekly bulletins. If you wish to receive this information by mail, please contact the church office bethesda@comporium.net or call the church (803)329-1360. The bulletin and Banner are published weekly/monthly and can be read online at Bethesda's website www.bethesda.org. Thank you.

The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, May 4 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

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

April Verse to Remember

"The Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 24:14

Homecoming

Come join us this Sunday, May 7, in celebrating our 254th anniversary. There will be a potluck luncheon immediately following the service that you are invited to attend.

Thank You!!

Dear Ladies of Bethesda Presbyterian Prayer
Shawl Ministry,

We want to thank you for the beautiful
handmade prayer shawl you made for me to use
while I am taking my chemo therapy treatments.
It kept me warm and calm and peaceful during
my first treatment!!

I know that God will be with me every-
time I take the treatments, just as he is
everyday!! We are just getting started, one treat-
ment down, five more to go!!

Our faith in God and your love and caring
for me will help us get through these treatments.
The prayer shawl was admired by everyone who
saw it!! I felt very lucky and loved to have people
like you helping us through this!!

With our most grateful thanks to you all,

Glenn and Marcie McCain

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. It
brings me comfort when I wrap myself in it.

God bless you,

Joanne Cox

(Debbie Fulmer's aunt)



May Birthdays



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

	Attendance	
	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
	In-person	
4/2/23	60	28
4/6/23 Maundy Thursday	48	
4/9/23 Sunrise Service	60	
4/9/23	86	23
4/16/23	47	19
4/23/23	50	20
4/30/23	43	17

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

LaRayne Hall (shoulder surgery)
Christina Hibbard
Margaret Moore
Bobby Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Doris Jonas - heart
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith (back)
Stacy Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell

Death - Family and friends of Betty Hildebrand, 4/9/23
Family and friends of Ron Richards, 4/17/23

At Bethesda Child Development Center

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

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Military:

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

In the Community and Beyond

Dorothy Hazard (LaRayne's sister-in-law)
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Willie Wilson (Bert's brother)
Memory Jordan (Ralph & Becky's friend) lung cancer
Evelyn Williams (Donna's cousin)
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband)
Regina Scarpelli & Tom Paolucci (Donna's family)
Ian (Nell Glover's grandson) injured feet at work
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
David McClellan (Darby's son-in-law Lee's uncle) cancer
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)
Peggy Wells (Sarah's aunt) leukemia
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter) leukemia
Brittany, Wes & Whitley Teter (Linda's granddaughter)
LeAnne L (close family friend of Debbie & Ricky)
Dolores Lynn (Tara's aunt in Iowa) heart problem
Sandy Martin (Christy's stepmom) lymphoma/pet scan
Marcie McCain (Jim & Lisa's friend) starting chemo
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer
Tito Palacios' mother (pacemaker)
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
Kelly DeLong (pregnancy complications) Sarah's niece

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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

*"As long as the earth
endures, seedtime and
harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease."*

Genesis 8:22

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