

May 2024



Bethesda Banner

This month I want to share with you some words from the young people at Bethesda. Beginning in Lent, 5 young people started confirmation. It was our first confirmation class together since I came to Bethesda, and it was a joy for me to teach.

At the conclusion of the class I have the youth write a statement of faith. I tell them that it does not have to be perfect. Instead, what I hope for is that their statement of faith will capture where they are spiritually in that moment. Together with the help of the adult mentors, these five young people wrote the statements of faith that you will read below.

The statements were presented before the Session on Easter Sunday as the final step in the confirmation class. At the end of that time, several session members asked if these could be published in the Banner for the church to read.

So I invite you to take some time and consider them each. They faithfully represent where each of these five young men and women of faith were in that moment as they thought about who God is in their lives.

One final thought: it is very hard work to put a statement of faith together and to do it as well as these five youth did is a testimony to how God is at work with them, and with you Bethesda family. After you read them, I encourage you to reach out to them with your own words of encouragement.

Blessings,
Derek

Chay Williamson

I believe God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins. I believe the mission of the church is to bring people closer to God and Jesus. I believe that we are born with sin, and we will all be capable of our sins. I believe in the Trinity. I believe that we all make up one big church and we come to church to worship the lord. I believe in one baptism to be saved. I believe in communion. I believe that people were inspired by the word of God. I believe God inspired people to be inspired by the word of God.

Mariah Russell

I believe in Jesus because He died for all our sins. Then He sent the Holy Spirit after He died. Jesus Christ died for me.

I believe that God is the Lord of us all and also the Savior of us. He created the Light and the dark, everything and everyone.

I believe in the Church because it says that even at the end of the world there will be a church for us to worship.

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*

Seth Williamson

I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God the Father created each of us equally for his mission, and he is the creator of heaven and Earth. I believe that God the Son died for our sins. I believe that the Holy Spirit guides us to make wise decisions and is evidence that we are a part of Christ. I believe that sinning is against God's commandments and that we should do our best to not sin. I believe that the church is made up of the people and is not the actual building itself. I believe that the Bible is a source to learn about God and Jesus and it gives us real life advice and wisdom to guide us through our lives. I believe that the churches mission is to spread God's word and love. I believe that we can spend time with God through worship, prayer, reading the bible, and spreading his love. I believe that communion represents Jesus's body and his blood shed for us. I believe that baptism is the confession of our faith and sins and that it is the rebirth of our love for Christ. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will." - Romans 12:2.

Daisy Himeline

I believe in God. I believe God is my Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ in his sinless life and in his miracles. I believe the Bible to be inspired, the only infallible, authoritative word of God.

I believe in God, Almighty maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. Who was born of the Virgin Mary. I believe God created man and woman in His own image.

I believe God puts people in your life when you really need them the most. I always believe that God is looking over me and making sure I am safe and every way possible.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, sent to bear witness, of the Son. I believe in the work of God's Spirit for the individual's, new birth and growth, and for the church's, constant renewal in truth, wisdom, faith, love, power, and mission.

Cadence Lackey

I believe in the Trinity which is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each of these are completely different but make up one person, God.

The Father is God Himself. He is the Creator of the world. The son is Jesus, He basically is God but in human form. He died on the cross to forgive our sins. To show how much He loves and cares for us. The Spirit makes it a 3-in-1 a.k.a. the triangle. If God's Spirit is not with us, then we will be vulnerable and weak to sin and death.

Sin is a very bad thing that originated from Adam and Eve eating the fruit from the tree. They broke the one rule of eating the fruit from the tree. The first sin actually wasn't eating the fruit, it was Eve lying to the snake, saying "you must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not touch it, or you will die," (Genesis 3:3). But God said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for when you eat from it you will certainly die," (Genesis 2:16b-17). So, the first sin was not eating the fruit from the tree, it was lying to the snake about what God said.

(continued)

If you want to learn more about God, you always go straight to the Bible. The Bible is the story of the world. It tells what happened and what's going to happen. Like Revelation 21:1, says "then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven, and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer see." So it says what's going to happen to the world years before it is going to happen. Or Genesis 1:1 says, "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth." That verse tells you how the world was created.

So if you have any more questions, ask your preacher, they can answer most of the questions that you have. The preacher is there to teach and spread the word of God. He is the main person that runs the goal at the church. The church's goal is to teach others about God.

God said. "I have loved you with an everlasting love therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you," (Jeremiah 31:3b). Therefore, we should be faithful to Him and spread the word of God, even if you don't want to do it. You always will have the urge to want to do that. Like someone is screaming in your head," Tell them! Tell them about me! Tell them what they need to know!" That's God speaking to you. He wants you to spread the word of God always you also can't just spread the word of God, you have to obey it. If you don't obey God's word, there's no point of spreading his word. You can't go around telling people to do something, you're not doing. It's wrong and it's disrespectful.

If I was told to be a Christian and follow His word from someone who wasn't doing it, I wouldn't listen to them. I would just laugh in their face and say." Why should I listen to you? You don't even follow the word of God." If you heard that from somebody, you would definitely do the same thing. So, you have to follow the word of God before you tell someone to follow the word of God.

HOMECOMING

Everyone is invited to Bethesda's 264th Homecoming

This Sunday, May 5th

Sunday School begins at 10 am

Worship is at 11 am

There will be a covered dish lunch in the Family Life Center following worship

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 26 from 2-4 pm. Make plans to attend part of the time or all of the time. Future dates are August 11 and October 27.

Plastic Recycling- We have collected enough plastics for our third bench! We will continue to collect plastics for our fourth bench.

Special Offering Update

Two Special offerings were collected at Bethesda on Easter Sunday. These offerings will benefit the programs of One Great Hour of Sharing and also the Bethesda Benevolence Fund. The combined total of these two offerings was almost \$800. Thank you for your generous support of these two special offerings. Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of those in need.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— April, 2024

Presbyterian Women's Circle:

Card Ministry

Donations to:

Thornwell

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

Tito Palacios and La Mission in Guatemala

The Matias Family in Brazil

Collected Almost \$800 for Two Special Offerings on March 31: One Great Hour of Sharing and the Bethesda Benevolence Fund

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Presented to Five Lap Afghans

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Pastor's Bible Study

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Grief Share Weekly Support Group

Provided Transportation for Church Members to Appointments

Community Support/Outreach

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Benevolence Fund

Child Development Center

Pastor Conducted Weekly Chapel Services for Three Year Olds through Pre-K Children and for the After School Children



The **Congregation Life Committee** is sponsoring a **Blood Connection Blood Drive** at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 4858 McConnells Hwy. York SC 29745 on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024** from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. It will be in honor of Rachel Ann Taylor, 4-year-old daughter of Daniel and Hannah Jones Taylor and granddaughter of Pat Jones. The Blood Connection will make a donation per donor to go towards Rachel Ann's bills as she continues her treatment for leukemia.

Each donor will receive \$40.00 in rewards redeemable for eGift card(s). The goal for the blood drive is 36 signups. 32 signups need to be made a week before the drive. Appointments may be made on-line at thebloodconnection.org. Sponsor code is 6791. If you have questions, call [803-328-1360](tel:803-328-1360) or email bethesda@comporium.net



Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School will be held June 17-20. More information to come.

The CE Committee met earlier this week and one of our topics on our agenda was the Children's Nursery during church. Our babies/toddlers/young children numbers are growing and this is such a WONDERFUL thing! Due to this need, we now need weekly volunteers to serve in the nursery. Nursery will be provided for those 4 years of age and younger. Volunteers will need to be in the nursery from 10:50 until the end of the service.

Please let a CE Committee member know if you can help. Thanks!



Bible Study meets on Mondays at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the book of Hebrews.



May Birthdays



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

	Attendance		
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views
4/7/24	41	18	14
4/14/24	53	23	24
4/21/24	32	17	39
4/28/24	47	23	23

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Dorothy Williamson
John Nettles
Cecilia Alexander
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
Eddie Smith

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Esther Bailey,
Jamie Baker, Catherine Goodband, Janice Meeks,
Natalie Ashe, Emily Hopkins, Shelby Ashe, Madison
Hartis.

Global Mission Partners

Matias Family and
Tito Palacios (La Mision)

In the Military:

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

In the Community and Beyond

David (Bobby Fulmer's friend) awaiting liver transplant
Jackie Johnson Saboley (hip surgery)
Griffin (Marotta's nephew Axton's 11 year old friend)
Cheryl Hughes
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
Noah Smith, Sr. (Pacia's dad)
Penelope Lowder (Rocky's niece) surgery
Dennis Duncan (Debbie Fulmer's dad) his memory
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter, lupus
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
Joanne Cox (Debbie Fulmer's aunt) cancer
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-
worker)
Tommy Harper (Sarah's dad)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Ron Saboley (Jackie's husband) unable to have surgery
Peggy Neal (JoEllen's mom) disease narrowing blockages
Rose Locklair (Peggy, Faye, Ruth & Mack's sister) hospice
Nikki Thompson (Alberta's daughter) colon cancer
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)



Family Fun Day!!

May 18

4-6 pm



This event is open to the community. There will be lots of activities for the kids. Free hotdogs will be served. And our very own Sounds of Grace will perform in the picnic shelter. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and bring your neighbors!

Ministry Support Online!



A QR code and link have been added to the Bethesda Website and the weekly bulletin for those who would like the flexibility of making ministry contributions online. Contributions may be made from the QR code to your annual pledge, special offerings, and other areas of support.

“Now faith is confidence in what
we hope for and
assurance about what we
do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1

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

Steve Childers

Cheryl Forlines

Debbie Fulmer

Laura Merritt

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Stacy 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