

August 2024



Bethesda Banner

I read a story about baptism that I wanted to share with you this month and invite you to consider what experience from your past mirrors the experience of the narrative in this story?

“A congregation we have been part of provide[s] a tangible take-home reminder of baptism. At the baptism of a child, the child and her family receive a small clay ornament made by a local artist in the congregation. Inscribed on one side of the ornament are the words “I am your God,” on the other side, framed by a rainbow are the words, “You are my child.”

The rainbow is a symbolic reminder that God keeps his covenant, keeps his promises to his people. This ornament is, in a sense, enchanted by the context in which it is given: it is almost as if the Sacramental power of baptism washes over onto this ornament.

Many parents then hang the ornament in the child’s room for the years to come – over the baby’s, crib, near their child’s bed, above their teenager’s desk. The ornament hangs there faithfully during good times and bad, when the child ardently follows and errantly strays, its steady presence is a physical reminder of God, who is faithful, even when we are faithless. In this simple way, a simple physical gift becomes an enchanted object that keeps teaching us to hope.”

Not many congregations have a practice as deliberate as the one that James shared above from his home church. But most of our families do have something that lingers in long after the event is complete. We have stories and practices that are foundational that we take with us into the community that help define how we know and trust God. These stories talk about how we learned to believe that we belong in the church of Jesus Christ.

We have shared stories and shared experiences that ground us as they remind us of the people whose prayers and support have been vital to our growth and our spiritual development along our faith journeys.

Perhaps as the season prepares to shift again, take some time and notice what root stories have shaped your family and your walk with God. Re-tell those stories and share the practices. Hold them out for others to see and take notice of. By telling them you not only keep their memory alive, but you provide a path for the Holy Spirit to re-enter into the life of another person and redirect them toward God.

Blessings,
Rev. Derek

1 James K.A. Smith. *You Are What You Love*. 131.

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:

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: Our next date is this Sunday, August 11, from 2 until 6 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Make plans to come help for any part of the afternoon or the entire time. Our next date to serve will be October 27.

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.

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

Second Harvest Food Pantry Dates 9:00 am:

August 30- Faith Presbyterian, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC

September 13- Mt. Zion, 5376 McConnells Hwy, McConnells, SC

September 27- Faith Presbyterian, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC

October 11- Jerusalem Baptist, 1003 Steele St., Fort Mill, SC

November 8- Fishing Creek Baptist, 1220 Springlake Rd., York, SC

November 15- Faith Presbyterian, 7520 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC

December 13- Green Pond UMC, 983 Bethel St., Clover, SC

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— July, 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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

One Baby Blanket Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation for Community Member to Appointments

Community Support/Outreach

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Child Development Center

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



Back to School Prayer

*We thank you for the fragrance of a new box of crayons, Lord,
The rainbow in each perfect row;
Thank you for each bundle of snowy white notebook paper,
Awaiting fresh possibilities.
May they remind us that you make all things new and bless us with abundance.
Thank you for this ruler; for every eraser that tops every pencil.
May they help us remember to measure our blessings ,
But never your boundless love for us;
To allow for the making of mistakes as a normal part of human learning.
As we lay out our new clothes for these first days of school,
Help us remember to put on Christ each day, too,
And to "clothe the naked" as He asked us.
But mostly, God, help us remember
that Jesus is always our best and most devoted teacher—
That we never outgrow all his lessons on how you want us to live and to love.*

By HomeFaith editor Mary Lynn Hendrickson

Thank you to **Jennifer Marotta** for creating and providing bookmarks for the hymnals!

Rev. Derek will be on vacation the next 2 weeks starting on Monday, August 5. He will return to the office on Monday, August 19. If you need assistance during this time, you may contact your Elder Shepherd. Also, Rev. Nick Setzer of First Presbyterian Church in York will be available as a pastor on-call. His email is nsetzer@fpcyorksc.org. His office phone is (803)684-2356 and his cell phone is (903)315-7559.

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.



*Ladies
Night Out!*

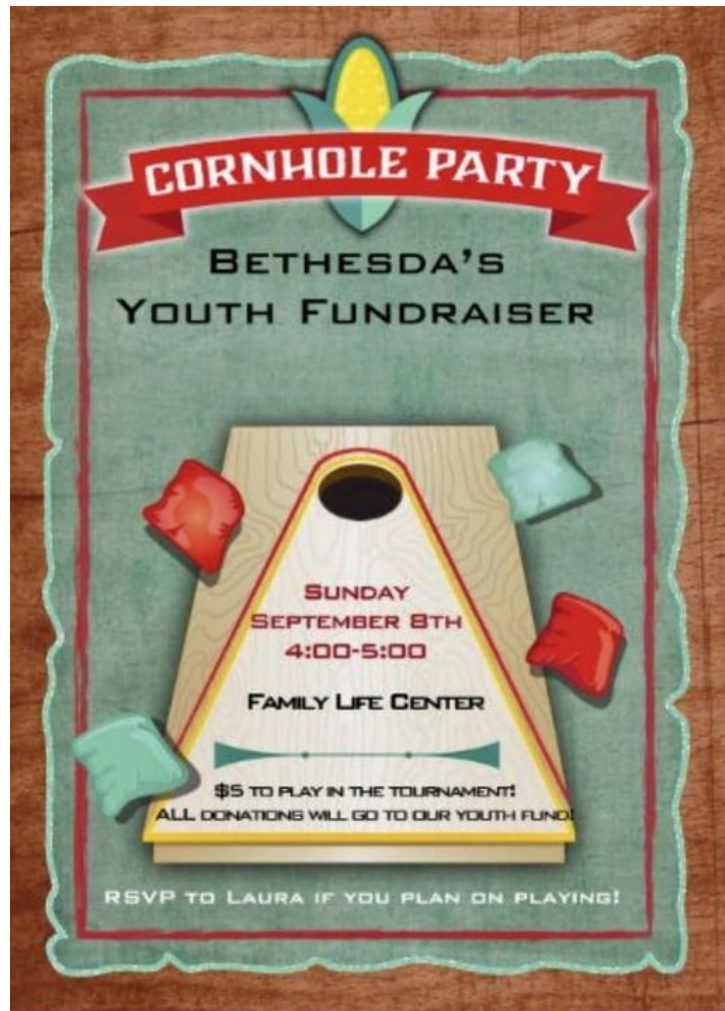
Ladies Night Out- Fall Paint Night!

Join us at Mud Ceramic Studios to paint a fall piece (or any piece of your choice) on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00!

Pieces start at \$10!

RSVP to Laura by 9/8!

The poster features a light gray background with a decorative border of green leaves and pumpkins. The text is centered and uses a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts.



CORNHOLE PARTY

**BETHESDA'S
YOUTH FUNDRAISER**

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8TH
4:00-5:00**

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

**\$5 TO PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT!
ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO OUR YOUTH FUND!**

RSVP TO LAURA IF YOU PLAN ON PLAYING!

The poster is designed to look like a wooden cornhole board with a hole at the top. It features a red banner at the top with the event title, and several colorful beanbag tosses (red and green) are scattered around the board. The text is centered on the board and includes the date, time, location, and fundraising details.



August Birthdays



1	<i>Asa Darby, Chay Williamson, Seth Williamson</i>
2	<i>Tony Neely</i>
4	<i>Darius Alexander</i>
9	<i>Tamara Rockholt</i>
10	<i>Peggy Adkins</i>
11	<i>Jim Bell</i>
14	<i>Hildegard Bell; Lennie Teska, Jr.; JD Hibbard; Jeff Nivens</i>
17	<i>Shannon Freeman</i>
20	<i>Hart Teska, III</i>
21	<i>Abby Costner, David Chambers</i>
22	<i>Ashlyn Dexter, Lisa Faris</i>
23	<i>Betty Jo Alexander, Rebecca Sipson</i>

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study*</u>
7/7/24	40	19	24	No Bible Study
7/14/24	32	13	11	during the summer
7/21/24	43	15	N/A	
7/28/24	44	22	N/A	

*Bible study includes in person and online participation.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Edward & Dorothy Williamson (Dorothy 8/2/24 surgery)
Margaret Moore
Jonathan Lauckner
Gene Cornwell
Ricky & Debbie Simpson & Family
Frank Allen
Anita Ferguson Buffolino
Bill Dover
Ruth Rawdon
Eddie Allan Smith
Stacy Meek (CDC)
Janice Meeks (CDC)
Hildegard Bell
Eddie Smith
Luke Johnson
John Nettles (knee surgery 7/17/24)
Steve Dickson, Jr.

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,
Nicolas McAteer, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson, Sabrina Dollar

In the Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes
Larry Rockholt (Carolyn's son)
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rachel Ann Taylor (Pat's granddaughter, leukemia)
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
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 & Nell Harper (Sarah's parents)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Ron & Jackie Saboley
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)
Indun Patrick (Jim & Lisa's friend) brain tumor
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Helen Steele - hip surgery
Hilda Miller (Dorothy's sister) rehab, fell & can't walk
Wayne Herndon (Dorothy's brother) fell and in PMC
Fionna Thomas (Debbie D.'s friend's granddaughter)

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