

September 2024



Bethesda Banner

Recently I read a parable that I want to share with you and ask you to think about; for it not only talks about the crosses that we bear, but I wonder if this parable addresses how we think about the ministry that God invites us into?

The story begins with a woman who thought that her cross was surely heavier than those of others whom she witnessed around her each day. She wished that the Lord might have given her a lighter, easier, cross to bear instead of her own. She wondered about this often.

One night she fell into a deep sleep and as she slept, she dreamt about her cross. In her dream she was taken to a place where many crosses lay, of different sizes and shapes. There was a one that was beautiful to behold, set in jewels and gold.

"Ah, this I can bear with comfort," she said. So, she took it up, but her weak form shook under the heavy weight of the gold and jewels. While they were beautiful to look at, it was too heavy for her to carry even a few steps.

Next, she saw a lovely cross with fair flowers woven around its sculpted form. Surely this was the cross she could carry, she thought. She lifted it up and placed it on her shoulder. But beneath the flowers were piercing thorns which tore at her flesh and caused her to bleed. So, she quickly placed it back down.

At last, as she went, she came to a plain cross without jewels, without carvings, with only a few words of love inscribed upon its ordinary frame. This she took up and it proved to be the best of all, the easiest to bear for her. And as she looked upon it, a radiance from heaven fell onto that cross and immediately she recognized it. It was her old cross that she knew. She had rediscovered it.

While I am not certain how the Lord determines what is best for us to bear and how God comes to this knowledge. I trust the Lord, as I know that you do also. I trust that God is with us always helping us to bear whatever is placed before us.

On the surface these things which we bear might seem out of line or out of God's character. But because we walk with the Lord each step of the journey and we trust God, perhaps we can look around at the circumstance that we find ourselves living with, and know for certain, that God has placed us in the exact spot where we need to be today. The cross we bear is the cross God means for us carry. Let this story encourage you no matter what you find yourself dealing with today: God is with you in that place.

Blessings
Rev. Derek

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 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:

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— August, 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 Lap Afghan Presented

One Baby Blanket Presented

Online Ministry

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation for Church Member and Community Member to Medical Appointments

Christian Education

Hosted a Rally Day Breakfast and Scavenger Hunt in Celebration of a New Year of Sunday School

Community Support/Outreach

Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked

Food Distribution—Distributed 45 bags of groceries, serving 76 people in 23 families

Child Development Center

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

College Student Addresses:

Cole Johnston
2275 University Station
Dunavan 7861
Clemson, S.C. 29632

Will Johnston
120 Beaver Creek Court
Apartment A
Conway, S.C. 29526

Josiah Walker
Box 28460 Furman
Greenville, SC 29613



It's back! Wednesday night meals will start on September 4th and continue each Wednesday at 6:30. There is no charge but donations are accepted. After the meal, hang around for some fellowship time with your friends. Some nights will include Bingo, Music Bingo, or Trivia games. Please reserve your spot. You can do a one-time reservation (planning on being there every week and only call when you're not coming) or call and leave a message or text Steve at 803-417-3571 by the Tuesday before that Wednesday. This helps making the meal planning much easier. To go boxes will be available also but please give us a heads up whenever possible so we can plan accordingly. Looking forward to another good year of food and fellowship!
Thx, Steve Childers

Pledge Statements for 8/31/24 have been mailed this past week or placed in the mailboxes in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact the church office 803-328-1360 or email bethesda@comporium.net

We are excited to announce that our GriefShare seminar support group will begin **September 11**. Our group meets in the Ladies' Parlor each week. We will meet on **Wednesdays, from 5:00-6:30 pm**. 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. After watching the video, we spend time talking to each other and supporting each other through our grief journey. 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, Darlene Dunlap at (803)981-2468, or call the church office at (803)328-1360.

Thank you: I wish to thank my church family for all the thoughtful ways you have cared for me for the last several weeks. Each call, card, contact, visit, meal, and help with transportation has truly lightened our spirits, and reminded us that Bethesda people do care. God bless you all.. Dorothy Williamson

Called Congregational Meeting

On Sunday September 22, 2024, the Session has called a meeting of the congregation of Bethesda Presbyterian Church for the purpose of electing 3 Elders to the class of 2027. The Congregational Nominating Committee is submitting the following names as a slate of Elders for approval JonMark Marotta, Jesse Merritt and Lisa Percival. Additional names may be submitted from the floor with prior approval of the nominee.

John Nettles

Clerk of Session

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.

A few updates for all of you as we have quite a few things approaching!

1. This Sunday, September 8, we will have Bible Buddies in the Fellowship Hall from 2:45-3:45.
2. The Cornhole Youth vs. Adult Tournament will be in the gym this Sunday, September 8, from 4:00- 5:00! We need volunteers to bring cornhole boards that can be used during the Tournament! It is \$5 to enter to play and we will be taking up donations from our spectators as well. ALL proceeds will go to our youth fund!
3. After writing/applying for a grant through the Columbia Theological Seminary (WOW- Wonder of Worship Grant) we were granted \$1,000 to spend on our children for the ages of 0-12 years of age. I was able to purchase quite a few things with the funds from this grant. You will notice that Children's Bulletins will be available very soon during worship for our children thanks to a new subscription that was purchased. Worship bags (filled with all sorts of fun things to do during the sermon from a Children's Bible, Bible Activity workbooks and fidgets to name a few) will be available for all children ages 2- 5th grade to use during the service. The worship bags will have each child's name on them (on a lanyard that stays attached to the bag) and they will use "their own" bag each week even though the expectation is that they are returned to their designated spot after the sermon each Sunday. The bags are not to go home. I have purchased extra bags for visiting children as well. Some Biblical posters, toys, books and other needed items were also purchased with these funds! I am very excited and THANKFUL that we received this grant!
4. The CE Committee meets Wednesday at 5:15! Be on the lookout for Trunk or Treat information that will be coming out real soon!
5. Ladies Night Out at Mud Ceramic Studio is on 9/12 at 6:00. Please RSVP to Laura by 9/8.

Thanks for all of your support!

Laura Merritt

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

(James 3:16-18)



September Birthdays



1	<i>Stephanie Barton</i>
2	<i>Anne Sanford</i>
3	<i>Randy Neely</i>
4	<i>Addison Johnson</i>
5	<i>Esther Bailey, Drew Hagler</i>
6	<i>Cole Johnston</i>
7	<i>Bill Russell, Jr.</i>
10	<i>Kylee Rockholt, Emma Marotta</i>
17	<i>Jordan Hose</i>
21	<i>Jim Carter, Sr.; Chris Dewey; Mariah Russell</i>
22	<i>Mark Boyd, Myra Smith, Jackie Saboley</i>
28	<i>Lou Beaty, David Hibbard</i>
30	<i>Pam McKinney</i>

	Attendance			
	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study*</u>
8/4/24	50	24	7	
8/11/24	33	17	41	
8/18/24	48	19	21	
8/25/24	50	26	7	

*Bible study includes in person and online participation.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Jennifer Marotta
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
Steve Dickson, Jr.

Deaths: Family and friends of Red Galloway , 8/17,24
(Abigail's mom's boyfriend)

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)
Karyson Cook
Twitty Auten

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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