

February 2025



Bethesda Banner

Everyone experiences the cold differently—and it has been quite cold recently. For me, I have experienced the cold in the dead and dark of night as Flynn needs to go out between 2 and 3 am.

While Flynn has been out in the cold at night, I have had some interesting experiences (besides wishing that I was back inside where it was warm). Most notably, I have experienced the lure and draw of stillness with the Lord. As I headed out with him, I did not anticipate that these experiences would become worshipful moments—but they were. While I breathe deeply, and watch the warmth of my breath head up toward the Lord, I imagine that my prayers taking on a similar shape and structure with God.

So, on many of those nights I wondered: is stillness with the Lord a call that we as the Body of Christ can lean into as we seek to serve our community?

The reason that I want to consider leaning into stillness with the Lord is that at any given moment we are bombarded from every direction with people, with news, and with notifications that seek our attention and our time. These things chip away at us from every direction until we feel like we have no space left to breath or to seek the Lord. On any given day we can hardly venture anywhere without feeling that little buzz in our pocket that begs us to look the other way.

And that draw includes an invitation to look away from God; put down our scriptures and become overly busy trying to learn and experience everything that is taking place at any given moment. We only have so much attention to offer, and too often that attention is not given to being with God.

This takes me back to standing in the dark with Flynn.

As I stood there, on those cold, cold, dark nights. There was nothing to do but *'be still, and know that He is God.'* Sure, I was watching to make sure that Flynn did not wander too closely to the street or venture into the woods. But that is not terribly hard work and it did not require much more than standing between him and his intended target.

While I did that, I was free to look at the stars on those clear nights. Listen to the sounds of the winter in the trees. Marvel at how God perfectly places each star in the sky and listen to the sound of the crunching under my feet. Each event was an opportunity to remember that God loves me, my family, and my church . . . knowing all the time that if God places those stars in the sky, then God will certainly be present when I need the Lord.

And so, I am still before the great God of creation who watches over all of the world. I wonder if that is a practice you could practice as well?

-Pastor 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: Bethesda will served 196 meals on January 19, 2025. Our next date is

Please help replenish our "Blessing Box" and Food Pantry. Suggested items are non-perishable food items, inexpensive can openers, and small hygiene items. (powdered milk, evaporated milk, saltine crackers, coffee, sugar, canned fruit, 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- Our fourth bench has been ordered! Please continue collecting soft plastics for our fifth bench.

Missions, Outreach, and Service Report— January, 2025

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

Online Ministry

Worship Services
Sounds of Grace

Ministry of Care and Support

Provided Transportation for Church Member and Community Member to Appointments

Community Support/Outreach

Blessing Box--Maintained the Blessing Box by Keeping It Fully Stocked
Prepared and Served 196 Meals at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

Child Development Center

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

Thank you!

Dear Bethesda Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl and for all of your thoughts and prayers. The prayer shawl has been a great comfort. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered

Sincerely,

Rembert Jones

To our Bethesda Family - We would like to extend a special thank you for all the cards and food from our church family during my recent back surgery. What a blessing to have your love and support during this difficult time. Please continue to pray for a full and speedy recover.

Thank you! Edie and John Nettles

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, care and concern during this difficult time for our family and Rev. Derek for his support.

We love you all,
The Teter family, Linda Messer

From our Angel Tree family:

THANK you for buying presents for us. We are so, so, so THANKFUL!!! Merry Christmas to ALL of you!

Love your friend



Upcoming in February:

Choir will meet at 5:30 on Wednesdays.

Wednesday Night Dinner will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, February 6 at 10:00 am at the home of Dorothy Williamson.

The Session will meet on Sunday, February 9, following the Worship Service.

The Worship Committee will meet on February 9 at 5:00 pm.

Youth will meet at Laura and Jesse's for a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 9, at 5:00 pm.

NEW 2025 FLOWER CHART is in the Narthex- sign up to place flowers in Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship and, if you wish info in the bulletin on that Sunday, notify Pat at 803-328-1360 or email bethesda@comporium.net by the previous Tuesday. There will be a plate upfront for people to donate for the Flower Fund

Offering Envelopes for 2025 are available. They have been placed in the mailboxes in the Church Office and on the front pew. If you no longer need envelopes, maybe you are using ACH., QR code, etc, please let us know. Questions, contact the Church office, 803-328-1360 or email bethesda@comporium.net

Who is Your Elder Shepherd?

New church directories including assigned Elder Shepherd are available on the front pew in the sanctuary or by contacting the church office.

Notice of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation on Sunday February 16, 2025, immediately following the worship service for the purpose of receiving the Annual Ministry Report and to elect 4 members from the congregation to serve on the 2025 Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). The CNC is responsible for nominating individuals from the congregation to serve in Elder Class of 2028. Nominations from the floor to serve on the CNC must have prior approval from the individual and the individual must be present.

The Board of Trustees of the Corporation for Bethesda Presbyterian Church York, South Carolina has called a meeting of the corporation to immediately follow the congregational meeting. This meeting will be for the purpose of presenting an annual report to the Corporation.

The 2 Session members on the **nominating committee** for 2025 are Steve Childers and Laura Merritt. We are looking for 4 members of the congregation to serve on the nominating committee with them for the 2025 year. The main purpose of this committee is to present the congregation with a slate of nominees for elders for the 2028 class to be elected by the congregation. Contact Steve or Laura if you are interested in serving on this committee.



YOUTH are invited to Laura and Jesse's on February 9 for a Super Bowl

Party. Party kicks off at 5 pm and ends at 7 pm. There will be pizza - bring your favorite Super Bowl snack.

RSVP to Laura

Being the church to our Pastor and his family:

1. Starting Friday, February 7, our church is reaching out to Rev. Derek and his family help with meals during this difficult time. An email will go out soon from Debbie Darby on how to sign up for meals.



2. A Yard Sale and Bake Sale are in the planning stages for March 22 from 8 am until 2 pm. All proceeds will go to the Marottas to help with medical bills, gas and groceries. Hamburger and hotdog plates will be available beginning at 10:30 am for a donation. There will also be live music.

Take a look around your house and gather up things you would like to donate to the yard sale. Donations may be dropped off at the church Monday through Friday beginning on March 17 from 9 am until 5 pm. If these dates and times are not convenient for you, contact the church office and we will set up a time to meet you at the church. If you have big items, we can also arrange for someone to pick those up.

Dear Church Family,

The Property Committee wanted to make you aware of some changes to burial and cemetery fees that will become effective **March 1, 2025**. These fee changes are still favorable when compared to other churches and cemeteries.

Below is the schedule of pricing and definition of each category.

Status

MEMBER - From \$400 to \$800 - Members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

AFFILIATED - From \$800 to \$900 - immediate family members of someone buried in the cemetery. An immediate family member includes : Father, Mother, Son, Daughter, Brother, Sister, step-father, step-mother, grandparent, grandchild or spouse.

COMMUNITY - From \$1200 to \$1500 - Anyone other than the status identified above, with no immediate family ties to the cemetery per the affiliated member definition, ie., community citizens, friends or associates of the church.

Additionally, the Property Committee is exploring the purchase of a columbarium, a permanent structure within the cemetery with inbuilt spaces (niches) that house inurned cremated remains. The Cemetery policy still allows for cremains to be buried in plots. A Columbarium allows for an alternative. Two sets of cremains may occupy one niche. The question for the congregation is how much interest is there in that option. The cost of each niche would be \$600 for church members.

Please at your earliest convenience let Pat know if you have an interest in a niche. A decision will be forthcoming.

Lastly, you may ask for a copy of the newly written Cemetery Policy by contacting Pat in the office. Please contact a member of the Property Committee if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Steve Childers, Chair



February Birthdays



5	<i>Debbie Simpson, Lisa Teska</i>
7	<i>Sarah Childers, Deloras Melton</i>
10	<i>LaRayne Hall</i>
13	<i>Bill Dover, Danny Drayton</i>
14	<i>Leslie Henson</i>
16	<i>Mary Jo Gardner, Sarah Russell</i>
23	<i>Valerie Bull</i>
28	<i>Cohen Hudson</i>

Attendance for January

	<u>Morning Worship</u> In-person	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Worship</u> Views	<u>Bible Study</u> in-person and online
-				
1/5/25	53	26	13	
1/12/25	44	20	27	
1/19/25	40	17	18	
1/26/25	45	19		

Ministry Support Online!



Contributions may be made from the QR code.

“You do not walk alone. The Lord God rains down upon you blessings, power, wisdom, understanding, and mercy.”

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Jennifer Marotta
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.
Benny Coxton

Deaths

Family & Friends of Joy Nettles, 12/30/24 (John's step-mother)
Family & Friends of Weslie Teter, 1/23/24 (Linda Messer's great granddaughter.

At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, 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 Community and Beyond

Cheryl Hughes
Johnny Rockholt (Faye's son)
Rick Stallard (Josh's father)
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
Dwight Little (cirrhosis of liver & stroke) Leslie Henson's co-worker)
Tommy & Nell Harper (Sarah's parents)
James David (David Chamber's grandson)
Jackie Saboley
Peggy Neal (JoEllen's mom) disease narrowing blockages
Christina Dixon (Shannon's friend) breast cancer
Janet Osborne (breast cancer)
Debi Dubard - treatment for cancer
Karyson Cook
Jeff Thompson
Becky Shillington (Jim & Ernice's daughter) surgery
Terry Brown (Darlene Dunlap's cousin)
Kathy Miller (Todd Hagler's mother)
Barry Zachary (friend of Walkers) lung cancer
Bobby Westmoreland and friend, Sherri

In the Military:

Chase Davis, Zoe De Anda,
Pierce Dewey, Nicolas McAteer, Gage Orr,
Michael Wilkerson, Sabrina Dollar

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:

Steve Childers

Debbie Fulmer

JonMark Marotta

Jesse Merritt

Laura Merritt

Linda Messer

Jim Percival

Lisa Percival

Stacy Russell

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

Director of Christian Education - Laura Merritt

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Sexton - Donna Hagler