

May 2025



# Bethesda Banner

Recently in my devotional I read about what advertisers call ‘the rule of seven.’ It’s a simple principle that is based on the concept of repeated exposure. The rule states any consumer will need to be exposed to an idea, or a brand, or a concept seven times before they will consider purchasing that item or supporting that brand. So, the more often we are exposed to something, the more likely we are to allow that item to take root in our subconsciousness. Once the idea as become rooted in our subconscious firmly, we are more apt to act on the impulse or invitation to buy or follow it.

The author then illustrates how she has fallen victim to this marketing strategy in her own personal life from everything from candles to workout clothes and even to her selection of restaurants for date night with her husband. I suspect that she is not the first, nor the last person, who the ‘rule of seven’ will snare.

But for me the ‘hook’ came when she wondered if as Christians, we are falling victim to this advertiser’s tool more than a thousand times a day and it influences how we practice our faith in our Christian service (of course she is exaggerating the total number).

She wondered if we are influenced as the Church also—and not always in positive directions—away from who God calls us to be and towards who others want us to become? And I believe her point has merit and warrants consideration for us.

Through over exposure we are confronted with countless commercials, posts, and written invitations to follow, like, and buy everything that we come into contact with; but little of what we are confronted with is the Good News of the gospel of the Lord? So, I wonder, do we apply that same zeal, that same level of commitment and faith, that same passion for how we share the miracle of resurrection in this community, as often as we could here in the church? Are we using our own ‘rule of seven’ to evangelize?

What would it look like to offer support, kindness, a ministry of presence as frequently as we were told that Easter Reese cups are good, or this candle is what we need right now, during the Easter season?

The ‘rule of seven’ teaches us that by repeated, diligent, consistent work results will come. This is not to say that as a church we are leaning towards a ‘works righteousness’ type of living, but instead, through faithful testimony we are continually sharing what God has done in our lives and how God has been at work with us. So maybe this month, let’s keep sharing how God is at work as often as we can.

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](http://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 is June 15. Future dates are 8/31 and 11/16.

**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— April, 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

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

*Presented 8 Prayer Shawls/Lap Afghans*

#### **Online Ministry**

Worship Services

Sounds of Grace

#### **Ministry of Care and Support**

*Provided Transportation to Medical Appointments and Other Support for Community Member*

#### **Community Support/Outreach**

*Food Distribution—Distributed 65 Bags of Groceries to 36 Households, serving 131 people*

*Food Items-- Collected Food Items for Food Pantry and Blessing Box /Maintained the Blessing Box by keeping it fully stocked*

#### **Children and Youth**

Easter Egg Hunt for Children of Bethesda and Community

Scavenger Hunt for Youth of Bethesda and Community

#### **Child Development Center**

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

**Upcoming in May:**

Morning Circle at the home of Dorothy Williamson on Thursday, May 1, at 10:30

The Session will meet on Thursday, May 1, at 6:00 pm in the Session Room

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



Homecoming is this Sunday, May 4. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for worship at 11:00 am followed by a pot luck lunch. Please bring enough food to share.

*Thank you*

Dear Ladies of Bethesda Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for the beautiful crochet blanket you made for our son, Jack Thomas McGill. We appreciate the time and energy you put into making it, and know that it will be put to good use in these cold winter months.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

Love,  
Caleb and Martie McGill

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you all so much for the beautiful prayer shawl you made for me. I absolutely love it. My recovery from hip replacement is coming along fine thanks to all the prayers and well wishes.

Thank you and God bless you all,  
Cathie Williams  
(Donna Hagler's sister-in-law)

Prayer Shawl Group,

Just a note to thank you for all your thoughtfulness. It was greatly appreciated.

In God's Love,  
Bob & Barbara Folkman

P.S. The shawls were both beautiful

From the Property Committee:

Thank you to all who came out on April 5 to help with the work day. It was a productive day.

I hope you all have had a great start to your week!

First and foremost, thank you to all of those who donated and volunteered at our Easter Egg Hunt this year! It was a great morning with a great turnout!

I have a few important dates that I want to share so that you all can mark your calendars!

-Bible Buddies- Sunday, May 4th from 2:00-3:00

-Ladies Night Out at Mud Ceramic Studio- Thursday, May 8th at 6:00

-Youth Cornhole Fundraiser- Sunday, May 18th at 4:00. It will cost \$5 for those who want to play in our competition! If you do not want to play, still come and watch and fellowship! All donations will go towards the Bethesda Youth Fund! We are asking for anyone that would like to please bring in a churn of homemade ice cream so all of our spectators and players can enjoy a sweet treat on a fun afternoon! We had an AMAZING turnout at our last Youth Fundraiser and we are hoping for the same this time too!

-VBS Set Up- June 15th at 6:00

-VBS- June 16th-19th from 5:30-7:55

Thanks so much!

**Laura Merritt**

Ministry Support Online!

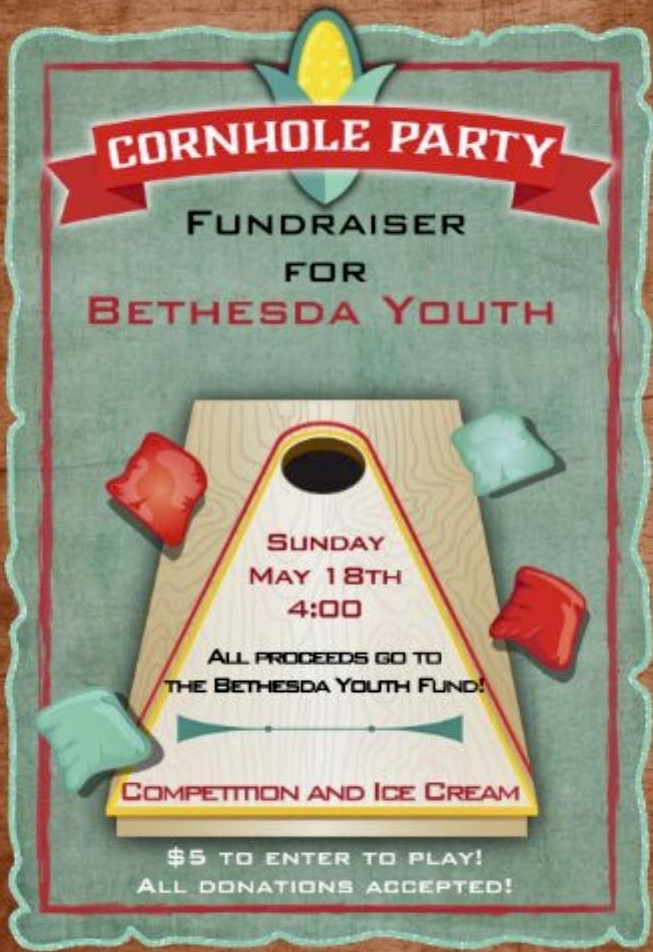


Contributions may be made from the QR code.



*Let's  
Paint*

**JOIN US TO PAINT & FELLOWSHIP**  
**Bethesda Ladies!**  
**May 6th 6:00 PM**  
**Mud Ceramic Studio**  
**RSVP to Laura Merritt by May 5th!**



**CORNHOLE PARTY**  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**FOR**  
**BETHESDA YOUTH**

**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 18TH**  
**4:00**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO**  
**THE BETHESDA YOUTH FUND!**

**COMPETITION AND ICE CREAM**

**\$5 TO ENTER TO PLAY!**  
**ALL DONATIONS ACCEPTED!**



## May Birthdays



|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | <b><i>Kitty Sharpe</i></b>                    |
| <b>2</b>  | <b><i>Patt Lauckner</i></b>                   |
| <b>3</b>  | <b><i>Christy Johnston, Lisa Hagler</i></b>   |
| <b>5</b>  | <b><i>Ken Melton</i></b>                      |
| <b>10</b> | <b><i>Cheryl Forlines, Cadence Lackey</i></b> |
| <b>14</b> | <b><i>Gene Williamson</i></b>                 |
| <b>17</b> | <b><i>Hailey Carter</i></b>                   |
| <b>19</b> | <b><i>Josiah Walker</i></b>                   |
| <b>20</b> | <b><i>Logan Johnston, Lily Hull</i></b>       |
| <b>21</b> | <b><i>Sully Foy</i></b>                       |
| <b>23</b> | <b><i>Donavon Burns</i></b>                   |
| <b>25</b> | <b><i>Sue Burns</i></b>                       |
| <b>27</b> | <b><i>Deanna Johnson</i></b>                  |
| <b>29</b> | <b><i>Lauren Hibbard</i></b>                  |

### Attendance for April

|                         | <u>Morning Worship</u><br>In-person | <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Online Worship</u><br>Views | <u>Bible Study</u><br>in-person and online |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 4/6/25                  | 44                                  | 26                   |                                |  |
| 4/13/25                 | 47                                  | 28                   |                                |  |
| 4/17/25 MAUNDY THURSDAY |                                     | 46                   |                                |  |
| 4/20/25 SUNRISE SERVICE |                                     | 60                   |                                |  |
| 4/20/25                 | 63                                  | 14                   |                                |  |
| 4/27/25                 | 46                                  | 25                   |                                |  |

# 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)  
Hildegard Bell  
Eddie Smith  
Luke Johnson  
Steve Dickson, Jr.  
Benny Coxtton  
LaRayne Hall - hip replacement  
Peggy Adkins  
Suzanne Griffin - upcoming surgeries 3/24/25 and 4/7/25

## Births

Hayden Donavon Burns, 4/8/25, son of Donavon and Katie Burns  
Carver Wesley Fish, 4/14/25, son of Tim and Allison Fish

## At Bethesda Child Development Center

Cynthia Jackson, Dawn Westmoreland, Jamie Baker,  
Catherine Goodband, 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) new 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 Johnson 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  
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  
Michelle Plott (knee replacement) 3/18/25  
Amber Love  
David McKowen (friend of Steve Childers) cancer  
Clayburn Barnett  
Pam McKinney  
Sheri & Sarah Kimbrel  
Eddie Cole  
Mark Williams

## 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](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)

Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://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