

**BETHESDA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

4858 MCCONNELL'S HWY.  
YORK, SC 29745  
803-328-1360

**Upcoming Events**

- Ice Cream Social , Music, Games July 2
- Independence Day July 4
- Guatemala Mission Team Departure July 15
- Congregational Meeting July 23

**Sunday School  
9:45**

**Worship Service  
11:00**

Est. 1760

*One Spirit ~  
One Body ~  
Many Gifts*



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# Bethesda Banner

## Drummer Boy

One of the bloodiest battles in our nation's history was the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. One of the legends of battle was a little drummer boy named Billie Young who died on the second day of the battle. William Shakespeare Hays, in a powerful poem, captures the depth and breadth of that scene. It eloquently expresses both faith and patriotism and the dear cost that others have paid for our freedom. It is an emotional poem. It is a sad poem. It is a poem of faith. It is a poem that needs to be read on patriotic high days. Let me share it with you:

*On Shiloh's dark and bloody ground*

*The dead and wounded lay,*

*Amongst them was a drummer boy*

*Who beat the drums that day.*

*A wounded soldier held him up*

*His drum was by his side;*

*He clasped his hands, then raised his eyes*

*And prayed before he died.*

*Look down upon the battle field,*

*Oh, Thou our Heavenly Friend!*

*Have mercy on our sinful souls!*

*The soldiers cried, "Amen!"*

*For gathered 'round a little group,*

*Each brave man knelt and cried.*

*They listened to the drummer boy*

*Who prayed before he died.*

*"Oh, mother," said the dying boy,*

*"Look down from Heaven on me,*

*Receive me to thy fond embrace*

*I've loved my country as my God;*

*To serve them both I've tried."*

*He smiled, shook hands--death seized the boy*

*Who prayed before he died.*

*Each soldier wept, then, like a child,*

*Stout hearts were they, and brave;*

*The flag his winding sheet, God's Book*

*They key unto his grave.*

*They wrote upon a simple board*

*These words: "This is a guide*

*To those who'd mourn the drummer boy*

*Who prayed before he died.*

*Ye angels' round the Throne of Grace,*

*Look down upon the braves*

*Who fought and died on Shiloh's plain,*

*Now slumb'ring in their graves!*

*How many homes made desolate?*

*How many hearts have sighed?*

*How many, like that drummer boy,*

May God bless our country during these days. And may we remember all those who for freedom's sake prayed before they died.

In Christ,  
Doug

### Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, June 25, 2017. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- ◆ Received committee reports
- ◆ Received the budget report
- ◆ Approved the first reading of the Bethesda Manual of Operations
- ◆ Discussed the formation of an Elder Nominating Committee and scheduled a Congregational Meeting to be held immediately following worship on Sunday, July 23, 2017, for the purpose of electing representatives from the congregation to serve on this committee
- ◆ Approved the committee

- members of the self study committee (to be called the “Holy Conversations” committee) tasked with completing a self study in preparation for beginning the search for a new pastor
- ◆ Recommended Todd Russell to the Board of Trustees to serve as the Church Treasurer, replacing Faye Boyd who has resigned effective September 30, 2017, after serving faithfully in this position for five years

The **Board of Trustees of Bethesda** met on June 25, 2017. The purpose of this meeting was to elect a new Church Treasurer. Todd Russell was unanimously elected to this position.



**We love  
best  
when we love  
God.**

-Doug Blaikie  
(from his sermon  
on June 25,  
2017)

### Congregational Meeting Scheduled for July 23

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, July 23, 2017. The purpose of this meeting is to elect representatives from the congregation to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee. If you would like to nominate someone to be on the committee, please discuss it with them before the meeting.

#### Attendance for June

	Sun.	School	Worship
June 4	77		46
June 11	78		41
June 18	75		38
June 25	57		44

#### Elders on Duty – July

Darius Alexander  
Cheryl Forlines  
Todd Russell



The Child Development Center and church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, in celebration of Independence Day. If a need arises, contact your Elder Shepherd or a Session member.

## Bethesda Begins a Holy Conversation

### *Christ's Church Is You and I*

In June Pastor Blaikie introduced us to the Holy Conversation our church will have over the next year. This will be a conversation between the Lord and ourselves, seeking His will for His church at Bethesda. Often when we speak of the church it is easy to think of the church as "they or those," or any other third party. The truth is that **Christ's Church is you and I**. So restated, over the next year you and I will take part in a Holy Conversation, seeking the Lord's will for you and me here at Bethesda. Any conversation with the Lord naturally involves prayer, so prayer must be an intentional part of our personal lives as well as our worship and fellowship throughout this journey. We must also be willing to be still and to listen for God's reply. We must support conversations of love, peace, and unity. As we faithfully study God's Word together, He will strengthen our faith and deepen our devotion to Him and his Church.

During this time of a Holy Conversation, we will journey together through a series of steps, led by a well represented team from our congregation: Trudy Amick, Valerie Bull, Steve Childers, Patrick Dunphy, Donna Hagler, Laura Smith, Johnny Walker, Dorothy Williamson and Elder John Nettles. The team will not go it alone and just report back to the congregation. They will have a part, and you will have a part. Each church member will have opportunities to be involved in the process. The monthly newsletter will also be a vital part of this conversation as we keep you updated with information. Please take time to ask questions of the team, the Session, or the pastor. Your input is important and welcomed. Our journey begins. Are you ready?....let's head out!....I'll see you on the trail.

John Nettles

### **Financial Assistance May Be Available**

Our church maintains a Benevolence Fund through contributions that have been designated to provide financial assistance for expenses such as rent, utility bills, etc. This assistance is available to anyone in our congregation or community. Application can be made through the church office and will then be reviewed for action by our Benevolence Team. If you have need of such assistance please remember this fund and either call or drop by the church office to complete the required paperwork. If you learn of a need in the community, please refer the person to our church office so that we will have the opportunity to help whenever or wherever possible.



### **Red Cross Thanks You**

**Thank you** to all who participated in the recent Red Cross Blood Drive held at Bethesda on June 14th. Twenty-one pints of life-saving blood were collected. A special thank you to the Congregational Life Committee members who donated their time to help with the drive.

### **A Note of Thanks**

Jon continues with his recovery after undergoing his second heart bypass. We covet the prayers, cards, calls and well wishes. A special thank you to the prayer shawl ministry for his lap Afghan which is beautiful. He is enjoying the use of it. With each new day, we see baby steps towards his recovery. Thanks be to God and my Bethesda family!

-Patt Lauckner



*And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.*

*Isaiah 54:13*

## Get Ready to Rally

**Rally Day** will soon be here in August. The children will move up to the next class, continuing their studies of God's Word and learning how it applies to their young lives. As a church, we must plant seeds of Christian love, nurturing their faith and teaching them about God and his Son. Over the next month, please prayerfully consider how God can use you to impact the lives of our children. Consider how your own life may be impacted by regular attendance in an adult Sunday School. Learning is not a weekly chore to be done - it is a lifelong process of study, prayer, and a passionate devotion to his Word. Let us demonstrate this process to our children through our role modeling, either as students or teachers of God's Word.

Contact Pastor Doug or Sarah Childers if you would like to join Bethesda's dedicated team of teachers who "plant the seeds" for our children.

## Jump! Jump! Jump!

A tremendous THANK YOU to everyone who "jumped into the action," and helped make **Vacation Bible School** a big success. The children were so excited to participate as their class moved from station to station. This year's curriculum **Hero Central** helped children discover their strength comes from God. Every child was given a yellow superhero cape to wear each night, and on the last night, they took their capes home with them. Teachers wore their red superhero capes each night. Thank you, Esther, for making all the capes!

A special thanks to Esther and Valerie for leading the children in singing (and jumping!) several VBS songs during worship service on June 25. This year's theme song *Believe and Take a Leap of Faith* was clearly their favorite! The action-packed video and awesome music of VBS doesn't have to end in June. Hero Central VBS music (by Cokesbury) can be found on YouTube.

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## CDC Fall Registration for School-age Children Begins Soon



**Child Development Center**  
A Ministry of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church

Summer is a time full of fun at Bethesda CDC! All ages are busy doing daily activities, water play and field trips. Please make sure you check your child's papers as well as classroom boards daily to stay current on all information concerning your child. Bethesda CDC will begin enrollment for our fall school-age program on Monday July 10th. We service Hunter Street, Harold C Johnson, and Jefferson schools in York and YPA and Sunset Park schools in Rock Hill. We also have one opening in our full day K-4 program. Please call Cindy or Dawn at 803-328-0149 for further information or to enroll. Please continue to keep our children and staff in your prayers for a safe summer!

## Serving and Growing Together

**Bethesda's Guatemala Mission Team** is preparing for their departure on July 15 to La Mision where they will work with Dr. Tito. These veteran missionaries know what to expect. They've experienced the challenges firsthand. Yet some return to Guatemala year after year, joyfully giving their time and energy without complaint. This year the following folks make up our **2017 Guatemala Mission Team**: Esther Bailey, Katie Childers, Sarah Childers, Steve Childers, Ellen Green, John Green, Micah Hancock, Wes Hibbard, Randy Peterson, and Tyler Saboley. Please pray for this team, for their safety and health, as they head out on July 15. Pray that God will bless them in their devoted service to the people of Guatemala as well as those they will be serving. They are still accepting the following items to take with them: toothbrushes, toothpaste, Tums, Advil, Tylenol, and alcohol pads. These may be dropped off at the church office or placed in the container outside Sarah's office **no later than Sunday, July 9th.**



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MARK YOUR JULY CALENDARS

**Sunday July 23** Kindergarten - rising 4th Grade: Swimming at the Percivals. 4 - 5:30 pm. Bring a towel and sunscreen.

**Wednesday July 12** Rising 5th - 12th Grades: We'll go see a movie. Movie, time, and theater to be determined. You'll need money for the movie and snacks.

**Wednesday, July 26** - Kinetic Heights in Charlotte for warrior course, warped wall, bouldering wall and park-our training area. We will leave the church at 2:15 and return around 6:30. Cost is \$15.

**Sunday, July 30 - Friday, August 5:** Youth Mission Trip to Thornwell Children's Home in Clinton, SC.

For more information contact: Sarah Childers Dir. Youth & Children's Ministries (803)417-0693 schilders@comporium.net

**Congratulations** to the following children and youth who had Perfect Attendance in Sunday School for the month of **June**: Carolann Bull Elizabeth Bull Regan Hall



Looking for a  
place to cool off?

**Bethelwoods pool** is open every Sunday from 2 - 4 for anyone from any church in Providence Presbytery.

## Save a Tree!

If you are reading a printed copy of the **Bethesda Banner** newsletter and would like to receive it digitally, please call the church office (328-1360) or email Pat at [bethesdapres.org](mailto:bethesdapres.org).





July 2 Faye Boyd

July 3 Tommy Varnadore

July 4 Elizabeth Bull

July 4 Jill Carter  
Andrea Coxton

July 5 Julie Cornwell

July 6 Gage Russell

July 7 Krystal Jordan

July 11 Ed Williamson III

July 14 Anna Darby

Kari Darby

July 16 Daisy Hinline  
Lecreda Smith

July 17 Carolyn Rockholt

July 19 Anita Coxton

Katie Hunter

July 20 Stacy Russell

July 21 Marvin Johnson

Kelsey Siimpson

July 22 Gayle Dickson  
Luke Johnson

July 24 Hannah Walker

July 28 Cindy Davis

July 29 Donna Hagler

July 30 Michelle Melton

Kim Walker

**What's happening in our presbytery?** Providence Presbytery publishes a digital weekly newsletter, *In the Know*, which includes news and announcements from across the entire presbytery. Our presbytery offers mission, education and service opportunities designed to equip, support and connect the members of our 56 churches for ministry in their communities and throughout the world. We serve PC(USA) churches in five South Carolina counties (Lancaster, Union, Chester, Kershaw and York). Would you like to keep abreast of all that is happening in Providence Presbytery? Subscribe to our newsletter, *In the Know* at <http://www.providencepres.org/communications.html>.



**VBS 2017**  
**WHAT A BLAST!!**





**Note:** The adult choir will not practice during the summer months. The Boy Scouts meet every Monday at 7:00 pm in the FH during the summer. The Cub Scouts do not meet during the summer.

### July 2

4:00 - 6:00 Ice Cream Social/live music/ games  
Picnic shelter

### July 4

4th of July - Church Office and CDC are closed

### July 6

7:00 - 8:00 pm Bible Study FH

### July 12

Youth Grades 6 - 12 Movie Time TBD

### July 13

7:00 - 8:00 pm Bible Study FH

### July 15

Departure of Guatemala Mission Team

### July 19

10:00 am Staff Meeting FH

### July 20

7:00 - 8:00 pm Bible Study FH

### July 23

Congregational Meeting after worship  
4:00 Youth K - 5th Grade  
Swimming at the Percival's house

### July 26

2:15 Youth Grades 6 - 12 Kinetic Heights

### July 27

7:00 - 8:00 pm Bible Study FH

### July 30

Youth Mission Trip to Thornwell Children's Home  
Open Choir during worship service  
PATH Collection

## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon	Michelle Melton
Edna Pinson	Steve Rawdon
Bill Dover	Jonathan Lauckner & family
Ethan Hose	Josiah Matias
James Rohr	Robert Jones
Jimmy Neely	Guatemala Mission Team

### Homebound:

Nancy Moore	Amelia Simmers
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### In the Community and Beyond

Larry Rockholt	Chris Brackett
Pat Reeves	Laney Allen
Lilly Davis	Melvin Collins
Christine Roberts	Catherine Porter family
Dorothy Hazard	Erline Henderson
Sandra Honeycutt	Natalie Bentos-Pereira
Jennifer Simmons	Reed Wagner
Audrey Branch	Laura Ross
Beverly Sledge	Elsa Carabello
Mary DeSantis	Martha Costner
Gene Carter	Charles Panter
Woody Percival	Leigh Sanford
Virginia and Randy Medley	Josiah Matias
Our country's leaders	Victims of terrorism
The Laura Matias Family	The Tito Palacios Family
The Marty Driggers Family	

If my people  
who are called by my name  
humble themselves, and pray  
and seek my face  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will hear from heaven  
and will forgive their sin  
and heal their land.  
(2 Chronicles 7:14)



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29745



We're on the Web!  
[www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)

**Our Pastor:**  
Rev. Doug Blaikie

**Our Elders:**  
Ralph Adams  
Darius Alexander  
Trey Amick  
Liz Blackwell  
Ernice Bookout  
Faye Boyd  
Debbie Darby  
Cheryl Forlines  
John Nettles  
Stacy Russell  
Todd Russell



Christianity is never  
more than one  
generation away  
from extinction.

*Rick Thomas.net*

**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 a symbol of our unity and service to the Risen Lord.

**Bethesda Presbyterian Church Staff:**

Secretary/Booker - Pat Jones

Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Sarah Childers

Caretaker - Mike Percival

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

CDC Director - Cindy Jackson

Sexton - Donna Hagler