

**BETHESDA
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

4858 MCCONNELL'S HWY.

YORK, SC 29745

803-328-1360

Upcoming Events

- Ash Wednesday
March 1 6:30 pm
- PW Spring Retreat
March 18 9:00 am
- Faith and Family
Night Game and
Concert
March 18 12:30 pm
- Fill the Ark Program
Ongoing during
March

**Sunday School
9:45**

**Worship Service
11:00**

Est. 1769

*One Spirit ~
Many Gifts*



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Bethesda Banner

Volume MMXVII, Issue 3

March 2017

Finding the Hidden Treasure of Lent

Christian writer Kathleen Norris tells “the scariest story I know about the Bible,” in her book, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith*.

Norris recalls a conversation she and her husband once had in a local steak house with one of their South Dakota neighbors, a grandson of “dirt-poor immigrants,” who now owned several thousand acres and bought new cars for his family every year; a man who had now begun treatment for a probably terminal cancer. That night this man of few words, who usually spoke about business when he did speak, began telling about receiving a wedding gift, many years before, from his devout grandfather. Norris says: His wedding present to Arlo and his bride had been a Bible, which he admitted he admired mostly because it was an expensive gift, bound in white leather, with their names and the date of their wedding set in gold lettering on the cover. “I left it in its box and it ended up in our bedroom closet,” Arlo told us. “But,” he said, “for months afterward, every time we saw Grandpa he would ask me how I liked that Bible. The wife had written him a thank you note, and we’d thanked him in person, but somehow he couldn’t let it lie, he’d always keep asking about it.” Finally, Arlo grew curious as to why the old man kept after him. “Well,” he said, “the joke was on me. I finally took that Bible out of the closet and found that Granddad had placed a twenty-dollar bill at the beginning of the Book of Genesis, and at the beginning of every book ... over thirteen hundred dollars in all. And he knew I’d never find it.”

I know that the common custom is to give-up something for Lent. And I know that many times that can be a good and productive thing to do. However years ago I heard a sermon where the preacher advocated taking on something for Lent rather than giving something up. A very good thing to take on this Lent is to read the Scripture. Perhaps there is a book in the Bible you have not read yet or maybe there is a book you would like to read again. It is always good to study and read one of the Gospels. You may not find a twenty dollar bill at the beginning of every book, but that doesn’t mean you won’t find yourself richer in other ways after daily digging into God’s Word. Who knows, maybe you will make it a lifetime habit.

God bless,

Doug

Pew Bibles Are On The Way

New pew Bibles are on the way! They will be placed in the sanctuary as soon as the “In Honor of” and “In Memory of” labels have been printed and placed inside the front of each Bible. If you would like to change or add to the wording of

your labels, please contact [John or Edie Nettles](#) no later than March 3.

Thank you to all who contributed to the purchase of these much needed new Bibles. God’s Word will be available in every pew for years to come!

Bethesda Takes Care of Business in Three Recent Meetings

The following are summaries of those meetings:

Congregational Meeting

The congregation of Bethesda Presbyterian Church held a called meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2017. The following information was presented at this meeting:

- A brief overview of the results of Consecration Sunday
- The 2016 Ministry Report, which included annual reports of the Sessional Committees/Outreach Ministries and a summary of the budget
- An explanation of the 2016 financial information presented in the Ministry Report and a discussion of the Forecast of Expenses for 2017, to be reviewed at the conclusion of the first quarter
- A report from the Session that the Covenant between Bethesda Presbyterian Church and Rev. Doug Blaikie as Interim Pastor was approved at the January 15, 2017 Session Meeting for the period March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018.

Corporation Meeting

Following the Congregational Meeting on February 12, a meeting of the Corporation of Bethesda Presbyterian Church was convened. The purpose of this meeting was to receive the following report from the Ralph Adams, the President of the Corporation:

- An explanation that the Board of Trustees of Bethesda Presbyterian Church is tasked with protecting the assets of the church, including both real assets (property) and financial assets.
- A description of the Investment Policy ensuring consistency in all investments held by Bethesda Presbyterian Church, which has been created and approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Affirmation that both the Cemetery Investment Fund and the Endowment Fund are restricted funds and are to be used only for the purposes for which they were created.

Session Meeting

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received committee reports
- Received the budget report and a report on the results of Consecration Sunday
- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder Phil Hughes, who is unable to fulfill his responsibilities as an Elder at this time
- Continued the discussion of plans for completion of the Bethesda Manual of Operations, with a request that each committee to review and revise their committee responsibilities prior to the March meeting
- Decided that, due to the loss of Elders James Anthony and Phil Hughes, the Session will complete the year 2017 with twelve members. A twelve member Session was previously approved by the Congregation. Specific plans were also made for procedures to fill the unexpired terms of these two Elders at the time the Elder Class of 2020 is elected.
- Approved dates for a Mission Trip to Guatemala, a Youth Mission Trip to Thornwell, and the 2nd Annual Don Rowland Memorial Pancake Breakfast (including a Silent Auction)
- Approved painting of the barriers in the parking lot safety yellow
- Received the Pastor’s Report

*Faith in action
is love - and
love in action is
service.*

*- Mother Teresa
(1910 - 1997)*

Quick Links

[Bethesda
Presbyterian
Church](#)

[Church Office](#)

[Rev. Doug Blaikie](#)

[Dir. of Children and
Youth Ministries](#)

[Dir. of Music
Ministries](#)

[Bethesda CDC](#)

[Providence
Presbytery](#)

Presbyterian Women Retreat March 18

Buzz! Buzz! *Buzzing along, working for the Lord!* This is the theme for the Bethesda PW Retreat to be held on March 18 in the Fellowship Hall. Registration begins at 9:00 am. A soup and sandwich lunch will follow the program.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Beth Templeton, Founder and CEO of Our Eyes Were Opened, Inc. She spent almost 30 years at United Ministries in Greenville. Rev. Templeton is author of books [Loving Our Neighbor](#), [Conversations on the Porch](#) and others.

Special Request from the Presbyterian Women

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Council of the Presbyterian Women of Bethesda. The PW Council meets periodically to plan and coordinate projects and activities that support and enrich the life of our church and the church worldwide.

The Presbyterian Women of Bethesda need to fill the following position for the 2017-2019 term, beginning in August of 2017:

Search Committee
We also still need to fill the following

positions for the 2016-2018 term:

Moderator
Secretary
Activities Coordinator

These positions are open to all women at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Please call Gayle Dickson (684-2119) or Carol Hope (328-8841) if you are willing to serve. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank You!

*“God doesn’t call the equipped...
he equips the called.”*

Spring 2017 Lay School

Make plans to attend this spring’s Lay School March 31-April 2. Register by March 8th to attend. The Lay School of Theology, a joint venture of the five South Carolina presbyteries, is offered twice yearly on weekends in the spring and fall at Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina. Sessions begin with dinner on Friday and conclude after the worship service on Sunday. Participants stay in a local hotel and are served lunch and dinner in the dining hall at the college. Participants are lay persons (ordained and non-ordained) who desire in-depth study of the Bible, church history, and theology. Faculty members are ministers and Presbyterian educators, active or retired, with particular interest in this enterprise. Several courses are offered at each session (core courses and electives). For more information contact Rev. Blaikie or John Nettles.



March Elders on Duty

Liz Blackwell Cheryl Forlines Stacy Russell

Bethesda's Child Development Center for our school age Summer Camp and these programs will open to the public. Spots are very limited and a deposit is [Cindy Jackson](#) for more information.



Christ Colors Our World With Love

will continue taking enrollment deposits our 2017-18 K-4 program. Both of on March 1. The deposit fee is \$75. required to reserve a spot. Contact

This Lenten Season Bethesda families will participate in the **Fill the Ark Program**. You may read more about it on page 5 of this newsletter. If you would like your family to participate, you will need to pick up a Giving Calendar and Heifer International bank. Please contact [Sarah Childers](#), Director. of Children and Youth Ministries (803-417-0693), to obtain these. Please join the families at Bethesda in this worthwhile project. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn how they can help other families around the world.

Teach the children so it will not be necessary to teach the adults.
- Abraham Lincoln

Sunday School Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to the following children and youth who had Perfect Attendance in Sunday School for the month of February:

- Carolann Bull Elizabeth Bull
- Reagan Hall Myles Hall
- Cadence Lackey

Parking Lot Safety

At the February 19th Session Meeting, the Elders approved painting the barriers on the parking lot safety yellow. Property Committee Chair Trey Amick bought the paint promptly, and Mike Percival painted the barriers. By Wednesday, February 22, this project was completed. A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to Trey and Mike for their rapid response to this request! The painted barriers will improve safety on the parking lot for everyone.

Spaghetti Dinner Thank You

The Christian Education/Youth and Congregational Life committees would like to express our appreciation to all the people who helped with the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 25. Thank you to everyone who assisted with set up and clean up, brought food, and planned and directed all the fun activities. A special thank you to Steve Childers for providing and distributing the awesome prizes. We all had an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship and look forward to similar food-and-fun activities in the future.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

411

Sunday, March 5

Confirmation Cluster at Bethelwoods from 3 - 5 pm for those who signed up
Youth meet in the gym from 5 - 6:30 for Bible study, games, and snacks.

Saturday, March 18

Faith and Family Night at the Hornets vs. Wizards basketball game with a Pregame Concert by Plumb. We will leave the church at 12:30 pm to go to the Light Rail Station in Pineville. The Light Rail will take us to the Spectrum Center for the concert at 2 pm. After the concert, we will walk to Brixx Pizza for dinner and return to the Spectrum Center for the game at 7 pm. Cost is \$30 for game, concert, and dinner. Bring extra money for snacks inside Spectrum Center. We'll return to the church between 10 - 10:30 pm. This event is for those who signed up with Sarah by the February 26th deadline.

An Ark for Today's World

In 1944, Heifer sent Faith, Hope, Charity and 15 other heifers by ship to struggling families in Puerto Rico. That voyage marked the start of a new life for those families and for others like them around the world.

Today, Heifer provides 15 different animals, along with seeds and trees. Other animals become part of Heifer's Ark as project participants make important environmental improvements on their land. Some projects form a buffer zone around endangered nature reserves.

As it was for Noah, so it is today: the ark is about hope and new beginning. For Heifer project families, farm animals can provide:

- *Nutritious food for the children through milk, eggs or meat
- *Income for housing, health care, school fees and other needs
- *Motivation to plant trees and grass and make other environmental improvements
- *A catalyst for community development
- *Small business development training

The ark is also about multiplication. God told Noah, "Bring with you every living thing—birds and animals and every creeping thing— so that they may abound on the Earth and be fruitful and multiply." (Gen. 8:17) Today, Heifer animals are spreading hope over the Earth as each participating family passes on the gift of one or more of their animals' offspring to another family in need. This miracle of birth creates a chain of giving that continues for years.

This Lenten Season Bethesda will participate in the Fill the Ark Program. Fill the Ark uses a four-week calendar as a guide on how families can give generously to help families in Heifer projects around the world. Each day includes information about our work, animals, resources and approach. Each calendar day includes a giving challenge for families to consider as they appreciate their abundance and collect change to help families in need. Each family or individual is asked to pick up a calendar and a bank located in the Sunday School building, Fellowship Hall, and Narthex. Money can be returned each week or on Sunday, April 2.



March 3 Richard Meek

Alan Smith, Sr.

March 4 Harrison Allen

Edie Nettles

March 6 Lane Russell

March 7 Joni Walker

Kenny Williams

March 9 Mills Sharpe

March 10 Taylor Adkins



March 12 Jason Melton

David Nettles

March 13 Trevor Coxton

March 18 Charles Williamson, IV

March 19 Conner Goodband

March 22 Irvin Jones

March 25 Ainsley Darby, III

March 27 Dorothy Williamson

March 28 Steven Dickson

March 29 Chad Russell

March 30 Jonathan Brown

March 31 Karen Boyd

Bethesda Will Send Mission Team to Guatemala

Want to be a part of the **2017 Mission Team to Guatemala?** Bethesda will send a team to work with Dr. Tito Palacios and his mission organization, La Mision, July 15-22, 2017. Information packets and applications can be picked up in the narthex, the box outside Sarah's office, and the church office. Applications, along with a \$200 deposit, are due back to Sarah by April 9.

News from Brazil

Mission Partners Laura and Felipe Matias continue serving in Saõ Paulo, Brazil with Action International, an interdenominational mission organization. They work in a community center called Casa Sear, or Sower House, serving children and families from the slums (favelas) of Saõ Paulo, the largest city in Brazil. **Copies of their most recent newsletter arrived this week and are available in the vestibule.** If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter at your home, please email Laura at laura.felipe.matias@gmail.com. You can also follow their ministry by checking out their blog at www.thematiasfamily.com/ There you will find more frequent updates about their ministry and their daily life as they serve God in Brazil.

Celebrating Three Years of Service

The Prayer Shawl Ministry held its first meeting on March 27, 2014. We are celebrating three years of service this month. During that time we have completed a total of 175 prayer shawls, lap afghans, and baby blankets. These gifts have been presented to members of Bethesda, their extended family members, and community members. Each prayer shawl is made with love and prayers and offers tangible evidence of God's grace and assurance of His constant presence. As always, we are grateful for your support of this ministry and will appreciate you letting us know of anyone who is in need of comfort and support.

*Where is your mission field? In Brazil? Kenya? Thailand? In your own country? Town? Church? Workplace? School? Social Media? Grocery Store? Doctor's Office? Mall? Neighborhood? Missions **begins** in the heart ~ and Home is where the heart is.*

March Calendar

Note:

- All Youth activities are listed in the Youth 411 section on p. 5.
- Scouts meet every Monday and Tuesday at 7:00 in FH.
- Choir will meet each Wednesday at 7:00 pm.
- Bible Study will meet every Thursday at 7:00 pm in FH.

March 1

- 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 10:00 am Morning Circle in FH
- 7:30 pm Choir Maundy Thursday Rehearsal

March 5

- 4:00 Congregational Life/Service Committee FH

March 6

- 6:30 pm Evening Circle in Session Room
- 6:30 pm Hand Chime Ringers in Ladies' Parlor

March 7

- 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl in Ladies' Parlor

March 8

- 7:30 pm Choir Maundy Thursday Rehearsal

March 13

- 6:30 pm Hand Chime Ringers in Ladies' Parlor

March 18

- 9:00 am PW Spiritual Retreat in FH
- 12:30 pm Youth Faith and Family Night

March 19

- 4:00 pm Session Meeting
- Collection Day for PATH

March 21

- 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl in Ladies' Parlor

March 22

- 7:30 pm Choir Maundy Thursday Rehearsal

March 27

- 6:30 pm Hand Chime Ringers in Ladies' Parlor

March 29

- 7:30 pm Choir Maundy Thursday Rehearsal

April 2

- Return Heifer International **Fill the Ark** banks

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Geraldine Blackmon | Steve Rawdon |
| Edna Pinson | Edith Gordon |
| Michelle Melton | James Rohr |
| Nancy Moore Smith | Bert Anthony family |
| Barbara Thompson | |
| David and Nathalia Nettles | (safe travels) |

Homebound

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Nancy Moore | Amelia Simmers |
|-------------|----------------|

In the Community and Beyond

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Chris Brackett | Lilly Davis |
| Larry Rockholt | Pat Reeves |
| Audrey Branch | Jimmy Gilfillin |
| Janet Osborne | Jennifer Simmons |
| Virginia and Randy Medley | |
| Dorothy Hazzard | Reed Wagner |
| Laura Ross | Charles Gantt |
| Natalie Bentos-Pereira | Melvin Colilins |
| Christine Roberts | Jeff Smith |
| Catherine Porter family | |
| Tito Palacios and family | |
| Marty Driggers and family | |
| Laura Matias and family | |



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29745

Contact Us
Phone: 803-328-1360
bethesda@comporium.net



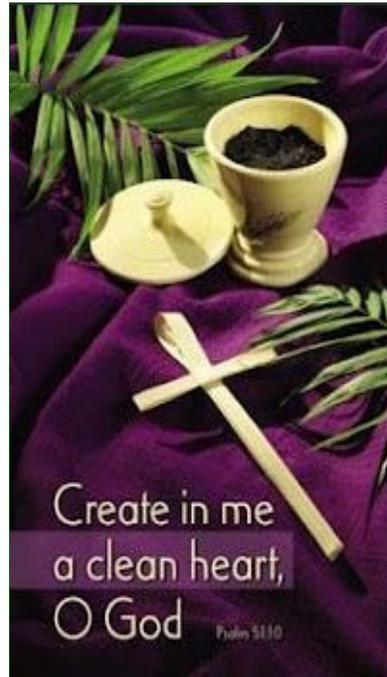
We're on the Web!
www.bethesdapres.org

Our Pastor:
Rev. Doug Blaikie

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

Our Staff:
Secretary/Booker - Pat Jones
Dir. of Music Ministry -
LaRayne Hall
Dir. of Children/Youth
Ministries - Sarah Childers
CDC Dir. - Cindy Jackson
Caretaker - Mike Percival
Sexton - Donna Hagler

One Spirit ~ Many Gifts



Join Us

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1 6:30 pm

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.