



Bethesda  
Presbyterian  
Church

4858 McConnell's Hwy.  
York, SC 29745  
803-328-1360

Sunday School  
9:45  
Worship Service  
11:00

*One Spirit ~*

*One Body ~*

*Many Gifts*



This is a publication of the  
people of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church  
York, South Carolina

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C. S. Lewis, resolute atheist, became a Christian in middle age. He would go on to write some of the most popular Christian literature ever printed, including an autobiography of his early conversion to Christianity, entitled *Surprised by Joy*. In this book he made it clear that he was very content in his atheism. He had no notion of finding God or even wanting to look. God, Lewis claims, found him. He wrote, “Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about, ‘man's search for God.’ To me, as I was then, they might well have talked about the mouse's search for the cat.”

Lots of people speculate about the “search for God” as if the Lord was playing a game of hide and seek with us and we had to find Him. The truth is that we are the ones hiding from God. Or we think it is like finding a misplaced wallet or purse. The truth is that we are the ones who are misplaced. Our journey of faith is not about finding God, but the strength to follow the God who has found us.

When we feel that life's circumstances have forced us to ask the deep questions about life's meaning, it is none other than God who has been stirring the questions in us. The very thirst we seek to quench has already been supplied by our God who quenches us with water that wells up into eternal life. Struck still with the terror and grace of Creation, we can know that it is none other than our Lord who has planted the capacity to wonder in our souls. When we are forced to face our own vulnerability, it is our Lord who whispers to us in the darkness.

We need to remember that as we seek the will of God for Bethesda on the Session and in the Holy Conversations Committee. Most of all we need to remember it in our own lives. Discovering the will of God is not about finding what is hidden or seeking what is lost. When we set aside our personal agendas, and our preconceived notions and simply seek to listen – our Lord will speak to us. May we have the eyes to see and the ears to listen.

God Bless You,  
Doug

## Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, September 17, 2017. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

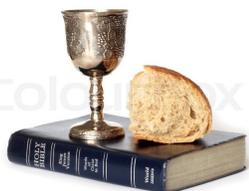
- Received monthly committee reports
- Received the budget report and information on the balance in the Cemetery account.
- Received a report from the Holy Conversations Committee
- Received a report from the Elder Nomination Committee
- Approved two recommendations from the Personnel Committee regarding employee health insurance coverage and staff compensation
- Received the Pastor's Report

### Board of Trustees Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bethesda Presbyterian Church was convened following the Session meeting on Sunday, September 17, 2017. The purpose of this meeting was to draft and approve a Global Corporate Resolution to designate authorized signatures for all bank and investment accounts effective October 1, 2017. Incoming Church Treasurer Todd Russell was approved as a signer for all checking and investment accounts to replace outgoing Church Treasurer Faye Boyd. In addition, Cheryl Forlines was approved, per the Bethesda Investment Policy, to replace Todd Russell as a signer on the Endowment Investment Account, representing the Administrative and Stewardship Committee (since on October 1st, Todd Russell replaces Faye Boyd, who has been the designated signer on this account). All other signers remain as is.

**"Let the man  
who would hear  
God speak  
read Holy  
Scripture."**

**Martin Luther  
(1483 - 1546)**



**Holy Communion**  
will be served on Sunday, Oct. 1.  
Please join us.

### The Conversation Continues - A Time for Speaking and Listening

Members of the congregation came together on September 17th before Sunday School for a time of prayer and unity. Please join us again this month on Sunday morning, October 15th at 9:30 in the sanctuary for a time of congregational prayer as we seek God's leading for His church. Additionally this month, the planning team would like to invite church Elders and Staff for a special time of prayer on Sunday morning October 8th at 10:30 in the Ladies Parlor. As church leaders we will join together in lifting up Christ's ministry at Bethesda and seeking his blessings and guidance for His people.

If you have not returned your Church Life Survey please take time in the next few weeks to submit your survey to the church office or in the drop box in the narthex by October 29th.

All members are encouraged to continue taking time for the hearing and studying of God's Word, whether attending one of the Bible study times at the church, or taking time to study and pray as a family. It is through the study of His word that we grow to know His will.

#### September Attendance

	Worship	Sun. School
Sept 3	52	50
Sept 10	86	70
Sept 17	82	52
Sept 24	76	45

#### September Elders on Duty

*Debbie Darby*  
*John Nettles*  
*Todd Russell*

#### Did you know?

Session meetings are open meetings. Any church member is welcome to attend the meeting and observe our leaders at work. If there is any personnel sensitive discussion, the guest will be asked to leave during this part of the meeting.



## *Pastor Appreciation Month*

### *The 500th Anniversary of Luther's 95 Theses 1517 - 2017*

**This year Presbyterians celebrate** the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. Luther was the courageous young priest who nailed his 95 complaints against the Catholic Church on the door of Wittenburg Castle Church. But the Reformation movement wasn't just one decisive turning point in 1517. There were many events, key players, and new ideas that spread quickly across Europe for decades.

**What's so reformed about our faith?** This fall the Fellowship Sunday School class will embark on a study to answer that question. We will study the key figures of the Protestant Reformation with a focus on Martin Luther and John Calvin. We will also study the seven essential tenets of the Reformed Faith using the book *Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace?* by James Boice. Please consider joining us for this study of the Reformation Movement and the Reformed Faith we practice today.

## *Your Gifts of Time and Talent*

During the month of October, the Stewardship and Administration Committee would like for you to take a few minutes to complete the annual **Time and Talent Survey** for 2018. The survey has been sent out to members of the congregation by email. You may print it at home, or you may pick one up in the church narthex. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share your gifts with the ministries at Bethesda. To carry out His purposes, He has equipped **everyone** to serve Him in one or more capacities within the body of believers. Completed surveys may be dropped off in the office or put in the drop box in the narthex.

## *October*

### **A Thought to Ponder**

### **A Message to Carry**

*Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.*

*-Albert Einstein*

If you would like to share your "Thought to Ponder," you may submit it for the November edition of the Bethesda Banner at [bethesdabanner@comporium.net](mailto:bethesdabanner@comporium.net).



There are numerous **Opportunities to Give to Disaster Relief**. Consider the devastation of millions of people during the recent hurricanes and earthquakes. In less than three months Christians around the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Many will have no homes in which to decorate their tree and there will be no gifts for their children or families. Right now, and in the coming weeks and months, millions have no home and little food and water. God will multiply our loaves and fishes when we share them.

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)

[Samaritan's Purse](#)

[Convoy of Hope](#)

[UNICEF-USA](#)

[American Red Cross](#)

[Team Rubicon](#)

[Americares](#)

[United for Puerto Rico](#)

## Heading into Fall with Fun!



### Child Development Center

A Ministry of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church

We have gotten off to a great start with all of our curriculum programs and are heading towards a busy time of fun fall events. We will not be holding our annual carnival event this year. The center is excited to announce that instead we will serve a supper from 4:30-6:30 pm on the night of the annual Christmas program in the Fellowship Hall. This supper will raise funds for our playgrounds and provide our families and

visitors with a delicious meal option. Look out for further details in the November and December newsletters! Bethesda CDC will have preschool trick-or-treating on Tuesday, October 31st as well as parties for all students in the afternoon.

Parents, please make sure that your child's extra clothing supply is stocked up and seasonally appropriate. Happy Fall to all from Bethesda CDC and God Bless!

## Bethesda Buddies Are Back!

**Bethesda Buddies** are coming back to Bethesda! Not familiar with Bethesda Buddies? This is a program where an adult member is paired with a child or youth to pray for, encourage each other and get to know each other. If you would like for your child to participate, information forms are in the narthex and the front left pew of the church. Pick one up, fill it out, and return to Sarah or Karen by October 8. After all the children/youth participation forms are collected, the names of those participating will be placed on the bulletin board in the Sunday School Building and adults will pick a name. This is a great intergenerational way for our members to get to know each other and care for one another. The Christian Education Committee hopes that you will consider participating.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Carolann Bull, Elizabeth Bull, and Reagan Hall for having **Perfect Attendance** in Sunday School for the month of September. We are so proud of them for their commitment to Sunday School at such young ages.

## Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering

**Providence Presbytery Women's Fall Gathering** will be held at Bethelwoods on Saturday, October 7. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Guest speaker will be Rev. Sam McGregor, pastor at Allison Creek Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be served at noon. Cost is \$10.



### Archived Newsletters

Editions of the Bethesda Banner that were published previous to the current month are now available on the church website. Click *Newsletter Archives* to access them.



## *Children and Youth 411*

Sunday, October 1 - **Youth will meet** in the gym from 5 - 6:30 for Bible study, games, and ice cream. Bring a friend!

Sunday, October 8 - **Youth will meet** in the gym from 5 - 6:30.

Sunday, October 15 - We will help **prepare and serve a meal** for Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. We will leave the church at 1:30 or parents can bring you to Covenant at 2 pm. We will return to the church around 6 pm.

Sunday, October 22 - **Common Ground.** We will meet with other youth groups in our presbytery at Manchester Park for a Scavenger Hunt and then dinner at Moe's. We will leave the church at 3:15 and return around 6:30. Bring money for dinner.

**Trunk or Treat** will be held on Sunday, October 29 from 4-5 pm. Make plans now to attend and don't forget to invite your friends.

For more info contact Sarah Childers Youth and Children's Ministries 803 - 417 - 0693 [schilders@comporium.net](mailto:schilders@comporium.net)

## *October 1 - First Sunday of Dimes for Hunger Month*

The idea for **Dimes for Hunger** began in our presbytery in 1977 when most of the textile mills in our area had closed and many people had lost their jobs. The plan was simple: ask each member in each of our churches to give **one dime - per meal - per day for the month of October for a total of \$9.30**. The offering would be used to help provide food for our neighbors who were hungry. Why do we continue to do this? Christ told his disciples to "give them something to eat." To show our love for Christ and our love for our neighbors, we give our dimes this month. Half of our dimes will help those who are hungry in Chester, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union, and York counties. Half of our dimes will help those who are hungry in Guatemala, Honduras, and Malawi. **To celebrate 40 years of Dimes for Hunger, please give 40 cents each day this month for a total of \$12.40 per person. More dimes mean that we can share more food and love with our neighbors.**

The Christian Education Committee has issued a challenge to the congregation: **If Bethesda meets our goal of \$1,500, the CE Committee will prepare and serve breakfast on Sunday, November 12. Are you up for the challenge?**



### *Every Sunday 9:45*

*Have you been missing meals at the Lord's table?  
Bring your Bible and have a seat. The lessons are sure to  
nourish and the fellowship is a blessing!*

## *Men of the Church Breakfast*

The Bethesda Men of the Church will meet on Saturday, October 7 at 8 am in our Fellowship Hall. Please join us for breakfast, a devotional, and fellowship. **All men** are encouraged to attend and bring a Bethesda neighbor and/or a friend.

## *Bethesda to Host Blood Drive*

Bethesda Presbyterian Church will host a **Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, October 24 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm**, supported by members of the Congregational Life and Care Committee. Sign up sheets will be available on Wednesday evenings at the TGI Wednesday Dinners and at church on Sunday mornings. We collected a total of 21 units of blood at the June Blood Drive. Our goal for this blood drive is to increase the number of donors who are members of Bethesda. Five members of Bethesda donated in June. Please consider participating in this important, lifesaving service opportunity.

## *Music Ministry*

Bethesda's Christmas worship service will be December 17 at 11:00 a.m. Our service will focus on "The Light of the World." We need added voices to both the adult choir and the Voices of Grace. We also need ringers for the hand chimes. The adult choir will begin rehearsing their Christmas music on Wednesday, October 11 at 8:00 in the choir room. Voices of Grace will be rehearsing their music on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 in the sanctuary. The hand chimes will begin their rehearsals on Monday, October 23 at 6:30 in the ladies parlor. There is opportunity for many people to come join us in preparation for this special Sunday. Please pray about this and come join one or more of our music groups. We need many voices to sing and many hands to ring. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [larayneha@gmail.com](mailto:larayneha@gmail.com) or at 803-554-4705 or just talk to me when you see me.



FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
INVITES YOU  
TO THE DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION  
SERVICE OF OUR NEW WORSHIP CENTER

Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 3:00 PM

7520 Charlotte Highway, Indian Land, SC 29707  
(Hwy 521 and Van Wyck Road, at the light)

The Rev. Dr. David M. Bender, Pastor,  
Faith Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery, Executive Presbyter,  
Providence Presbytery

*Refreshments following the service*

2	Conner Brown	14	Matthew McAteer
	Jerred Mitchell	14	Nicolas McAteer
4	Caren Allen	17	John Nettles
6	Anita Ferguson	19	Michelle Plott
	Doug McCall	21	Bill Davis
9	Cecelia Alexander	22	Bert Anthony
10	Coleman Medlin	22	Patrick Dunphy
11	Carolann Bull	24	Caitlin Hibbard
	Emily Medley	26	Tom Bull
12	Bobby Faris		Steven Dickson
14	Trudy Amick	29	Trey Amick
14	Justin McAteer	31	Julia Dover

# October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1 Pastor Appreciation Covered Dish</b> Wor. Comm 5:00	<b>Note:</b> Music rehearsal schedules can be found on p. 6 in the Music Ministry article.		<b>4 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30</b> Morning Circle 10 am FH	<b>5 Bible Study</b> 7:00 FH	<b>6</b>	<b>7 Men of Church Breakfast</b> 8:00 FH
<b>8 Cong Life</b> Comm 4:00 FH Admin/Stew Comm 6:00 SR	<b>9</b>	<b>10 CDC Adv Council 6:30 SR</b> Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP	<b>11 Choir Practice 7:30</b> <b>TGI Wed Dinner 6:30</b>	<b>12 Bible Study</b> 7:00 FH	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Personnel Comm. 5:00 SR</b> CE Committee 6:30 LP	<b>16 Boy Scouts</b> FH 7:00 Evening Cir. 6:00 B. Adams house	<b>17 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP</b> Cub scouts 7:00 FH	<b>18 Choir Practice 7:30</b> <b>TGI Wed Dinner 6:30</b>	<b>19 Bible Study</b> 7:00 FH	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Session Meeting 7:00</b>	<b>23 Boy Scouts</b> Fellowship Hall 7:00	<b>24 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP</b> Cub scouts 7:00 FH	<b>25 Choir Practice 7:30</b> <b>TGI Wed Dinner 6:30</b>	<b>26 Bible Study</b> 7:00 FH	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Trunk or Treat 4 - 5</b> PATH Collection	<b>30 Boy Scouts</b> Fellowship Hall 7:00	<b>31 Cub scouts</b> 7:00 FH				

## *Remember in Prayer*

**At Bethesda**

Geraldine Blackmon  
 Edna Pinson  
 Bill Dover  
 Gloria Melton Hope  
 Jimmy Neely  
 Michelle Melton  
 Jonathan Lauckner  
 Robert Jones  
 Steve Rawdon  
 Claire Williamson  
 Vic Adkins  
 Irvin Jones

David and Nathalia Nettles (safe travels to Uruguay)

Randy Peterson  
 Colton and Brayden Wescott

**Homebound**

Nancy Moore  
 Amelia Simmers

**In the Community and Beyond**

Larry Rockholt  
 Pat Jones Reeves  
 Lilly Davis  
 Christine Roberts  
 Dorothy Hazard

Jennifer Simmons

Beverly Sledge  
 Gene Carter  
 Woody Percival

Laney Allen  
 Chris Brackett  
 Melvin Collins

Erline Henderson  
 Natalie Bentos-Pereira

Reed Wagner  
 Elsa Carabello  
 Martha Costner  
 Randy and Virginia Medley

Eva Bailey

Julie Pickel  
 Jill Dickson Carter  
 Jeremy Leopard  
 Powell family  
 Tony Hyatt family  
 Family of Sandra Dover Honeycutt

**Those impacted by the hurricanes**

**Our Global Mission Partners**

Matias Family  
 Palacios Family  
 Driggers Family

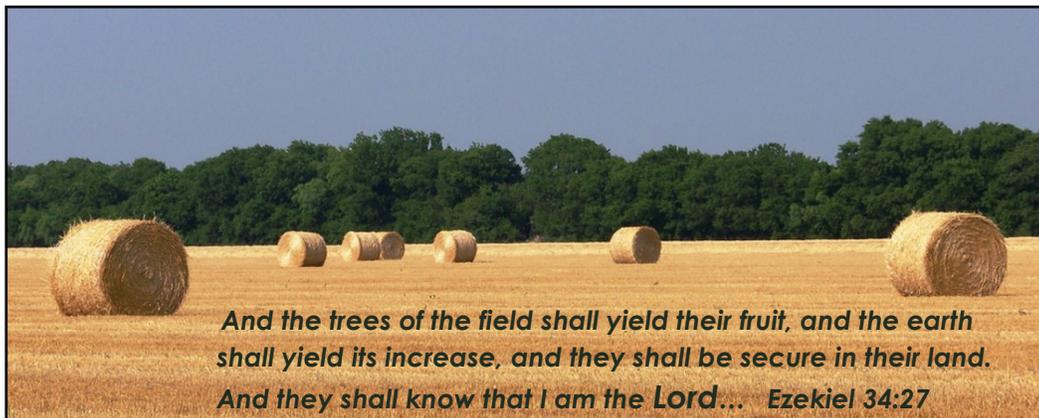
**Bethesda Presbyterian Church**

Our Pastor:  
Rev. Doug Blaikie

*4858 McConnells Hwy.  
York, South Carolina 29745*  
*Phone: 803.328.1360*  
*Email: [bethesda@comporium.net](mailto:bethesda@comporium.net)*  
*Website: [www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)*

Our Elders:

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

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones    Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall  
Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Sarah Childers  
Caretaker - Mike Percival    Sexton - Donna Hagler