



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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Among all the news of the disaster in Houston one story caught my eye - the story of Sgt. Steve Perez of the Houston police. He went out to help with the victims of the flood at four in the morning. His wife begged him not to go, but still understood that her husband was a person of faith who felt compelled to go out and help his neighbor. For over two hours he tried to get to his station but failed. But rather than turning back towards safety, he attempted to find another place where he could serve. Tragically the flood took his life while he was beneath an underpass on a city highway.

I am not a twitter person, but the tweet from the Mayor of Houston spoke to my heart as he reflected on Sgt. Perez's life:

*Sergeant Perez fulfilled his purpose.*

*His mission is complete.*

*This City ought to celebrate his life.*

*Nine thousand police and firemen are working to serve.*

*Rest in peace Sergeant, Houston thanks you*

*and mourns all who have died.*

Dear friends, may the same be true for us. May we fulfill the purpose that God has for us and complete the mission as our Lord's disciple. We are grateful for dedicated people of faith like Steve Perez who show us the way of serving others. And may the people of Houston know that the Lord is with them in the arms and legs and eyes of those who serve.

Doug

## Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, August 20, 2017. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received committee reports
- Received the budget report
- Approved a request from a home school group to use the Bethesda facilities one day per week for two twelve week terms during the academic year
- Discussed the Bethesda Manual of Operations in a second reading
- Approved a change in the threshold for withdrawing funds from the Endowment Fund for specific purposes as set forth in the guidelines for the Bethesda Endowment Fund
- Received a report from the Holy Conversations Committee

**Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.**

## Holy Conversations

The Holy Conversations Team met three times during the month of August. Our time together has been spent studying God's Word and praying in an earnest attempt to seek out God's will for His church here at Bethesda. As we promised last month, there is a place for each of you in this journey. We need your help in a couple of areas this coming month.

- In the next few days each member of the church will receive a survey by mail and also by email. The answers you provide will aid our team with a necessary understanding of who we are as a living body of Christ. The survey questions have not only been designed to provide or verify our basic demographic information, but they also provide you with the opportunity to reflect on the *strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and maybe even threats* that exist in our ministry. We hope that each individual member of your family will take time to provide your thoughts.

- The name of our team reflects our desire to be engaged in a "holy conversation" with God. We have committed ourselves to deep prayer that seeks His will and wisdom for our church, for without His leadership, we can do nothing to grow His church. We invite you to join us on Sunday morning September 17, at 9:30 in the sanctuary for a time of church wide prayer.
- Lastly, we encourage each member to participate in a focused study of God's Word. This may include studying and praying with your family, attending or joining a Sunday School class, Thursday night Bible study, and Sunday morning prayer, as well as other opportunities.

*O God, we talk to You through prayer; we listen to You through Your Word; we respond to You through the indwelling of Your Spirit in our hearts. Come Holy Spirit and fill us. Amen*

### August Attendance

	Worship	Sun. School
August 6	59	42
August 13	85	45
August 20	69	unavailable
August 27	70	large crowd

### September Elders on Duty

*Ralph Adams  
Trey Amick  
Ernice Bookout*

### 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.



## *TGI Wednesdays Are Coming to Bethesda!*

**What's for dinner? No worries on Wednesdays!** Take a mid-week break from your normal routine and join us in the Fellowship Hall for food, fun, fellowship, contemporary music and a short devotion. Food will be provided (donations will be accepted to cover costs). There's no need for you to cook or bring anything. Activities will vary weekly. Sometimes it's good to just hang out and enjoy each other's company. **This starts September 6th from 6:30 - 7:30.** TGI Wednesdays could become a wonderful weekly routine for your family. We're looking forward to seeing YOU there!

## *Sunday Morning Classes*

**Sunday School begins every Sunday morning at 9:45.**

Below is a list of classes and locations. If you don't already attend a Sunday School class, we hope you will consider joining one of these classes:

**Nursery** - volunteers

**2-4 year olds** - Esther Bailey, Donna Hagler, and Bobbie Kaye Hagler (meets in Choir Room and then moves to Toddler Room)

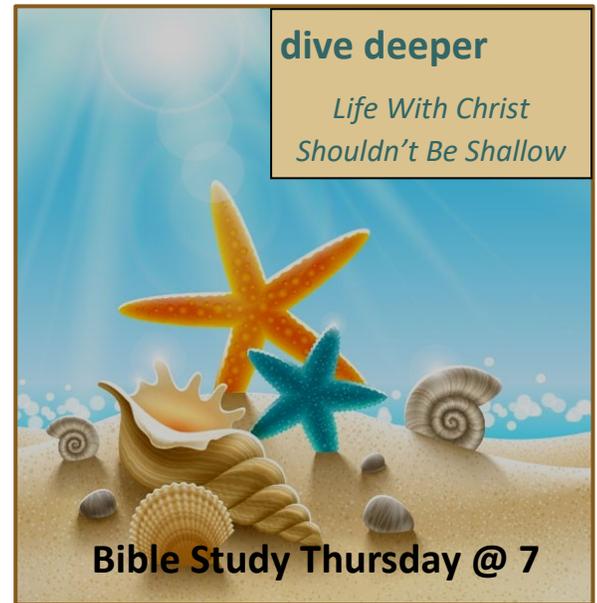
**5K through 4th Grade** - Sarah Childers, Valerie Bull, Beth Smith, and Susan Hibbard (meets in Choir Room and then moves upstairs)

**Youth** - Debbie Darby and Ricky & Debbie Hose (meets upstairs at end of hall in [Sunday School Building](#))

**Young at Heart Class** - Steve Childers, Karen Percival, and Valerie Bull (meets in the Session Room in the gym)

**Fellowship Class** - John Nettles (meets in Fellowship Hall)

**Ione Williams Class** - Carol Hope and Liz Blackwell (meets downstairs in [Sunday School Building](#))



## *Elder Nominating Committee*

At the August 13 Congregational Meeting the congregation nominated and approved five people to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee. This committee will present nominees to the congregation for approval. Please be in prayer for this committee as they seek to nominate leaders whose lives exemplify true discipleship. These individuals must be willing to devote their time and talents to service, seeking God's wisdom and guidance through prayer, Bible studies, and personal spiritual growth. The congregation will elect four Elders for the Class of 2020 and two others to fill unexpired terms. Committee members are: Liz Blackwell, Todd Russell, Edie Nettles, Esther Bailey, and Sydney Russell.

The **church office hours** will resume their pre-summer hours, beginning in September. Staff will be in the office from 9:00 - 1:00 pm. The office phone will go to the answering machine daily when the office is closed, or calls will be taken by Rev. Blaikie Tuesday - Friday when he is in the office during this time.

Church Office 803 - 328 - 1360

Manse 803 - 329 - 6441



**Child Development Center**

A Ministry of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church

*Welcome New Children and Parents!*

Bethesda CDC would like to welcome all of our new children and parents that have joined our "family" this fall term. All of the children are adjusting nicely to their curriculum and schedules. It is hard to believe that autumn is fast approaching and with its approach comes our annual carnival. The

carnival will be Saturday October 7th from 10 - 2. We will have food, games, and vendors. Please mark your calendars!

Parents, please remember to check your child's information sheet each day and also make sure that your child has seasonal appropriate clothing in

their classrooms.

We would like to thank the following staff for their years of service to the center:

Ms Tammy H. 14 years  
Ms. Mykaela 11 years

Happy Fall to All and  
God Bless!

*Back-to-School Celebration a Total Success*

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to make **Bethesda's Back to School Celebration** such a success. It was wonderful to see such a huge outpouring of love. The Christian Education committee would sincerely like to thank everyone who sent or prepared food, helped run the activities, or did anything to support the day. We registered 55 kids, and they were there with their parents. The kids played on the inflatables, got wet at the water stations, and ate snow cones. We then had a devotion at the picnic shelter, where each child received a wooden cross for their book bag. Everyone then enjoyed a hot dog supper. The day was a total success! Thank YOU to the Christian Education committee for their hard work and dedication to our children.



## *Breakfast, Visitation, and Prayer*

What do breakfast, visitation, and prayer have to do with each other? Those who came at 9:30 on Sunday, August 27, were blessed to experience all of them during the Sunday School hour. Our **Sunday School Revival** began with a wonderful breakfast cooked by Mike Percival and Steve Childers. Then everyone participated in a Prayer Walk. Each Sunday School class walked through the Sunday School building, Family Life Center, and Fellowship Hall to visit the different classrooms where students, both young and old, spend the Sunday School hour. During each visit, they stopped and prayed for the members of that class and their teachers. They thanked God for His church, our teachers, and the opportunity to grow their faith by studying God's Word.

## *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Carolann Bull, Elizabeth Bull, and Reagan Hall for having **Perfect Attendance** in Sunday School for the month of August! Not only did they have perfect attendance for August, but they had it for the entire year - September, 2016 through August, 2017! We are so proud of them for their commitment to Sunday School at such young ages. And, of course, a big thank you to their parents and grandparents for bringing them to Sunday School.

## *Children and Youth 411*

**The Youth** will resume meeting on Sunday, September 10. All 6th - 12th graders are invited to come for Bible study. We'll meet from 5 - 6:30 pm for Bible study, games, and snacks.

**Sunday September 17** - Youth in the gym 5 - 6:30 for Bible study, games, snacks

**Sunday September 24** - Worship for YOUTH at Bethelwoods. We will meet with youth from other churches for fellowship, games, dinner, and worship. We'll leave the church at 3:45 pm and return around 7 pm. Cost is \$5.

**Ready to Worship** will begin for all 2nd - 3rd graders on Sunday September 10 during the worship service. Topics will include worship and our worship leaders; how to read a hymn; the Lord's Prayer and other types of prayer; how to look up scripture; and the creeds and sacraments. Parents, please let Sarah know by September 3 if your child will be participating.

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



*Every Sunday 9:45*  
*There's a place for YOU!*

## *PW Honorary Life Membership Awarded*

The Bethesda Presbyterian Women met for their annual meeting on Sunday, August 27 at 5 pm. Officers gave their year-end reports. Officers for 2017 - 2018 are:

Moderator - Carol Hope; Vice Moderator - Nell Glover; Secretary - Donna Hagler; Treasurer - Barbara Thompson; Historian - Liz Blackwell; Bible Study and Spiritual Growth - Faye Smith; Creative Ministries - Becky Adams; Activities Coordinator - Ernice Bookout; Search Committee - Gayle Dickson; Morning Circle Moderator - Edith Gordon; Evening Circle Moderator - Trudy Amick

Faye Smith presented the Honorary Life Membership. This award is presented every other year and voted on by the Bethesda PW membership. The recipient is recognized for her/his commitment to Christ and to the mission of the church. The Honorary Life Member award was presented to Carol Hope. Carol has served as a deacon, elder, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School

Superintendent and has been active in PW. When she was working, she took vacation days to serve as Bible School Director and more recently to prepare meals for Bible School. Carol's daughters, Susan Dixon and Christine Keeney, were guests. The meeting was closed with the singing of "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" and prayer. Following the meeting, the group enjoyed a covered dish salad supper, which included a birthday cake for Barbara Thompson whose birthday was August 27.

The PW year begins in September. The Morning Circle meets at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall the first Wednesday of the month. The Evening Circle meets in the Session Room the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Each Circle welcomes new members for Bible Study, mission projects, and fellowship. Come join a circle! You will receive a blessing!



## *Wedding Congratulations*

Congratulations to Lauren Noelle Medley and Matthew Chase McDaniel who were joined together in holy matrimony on August 19, 2017. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Doug Blaikie. Lauren's parents are Randy and Virginia Medley. Her grandparents are Jim and Lou Beaty.

## *A Note of Thanks*

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It is beautiful and it is such a wonderful thing to do. God Bless you all,

-Jackie Wallace

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry Update*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin meeting regularly in September after taking a break this summer. This fall we plan to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the Ladies' Parlor. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 PM. We would really like to have some new members, so if you are interested, please join us. No special skills are needed! We have members who can help you learn to knit or crochet. Your contribution to our ministry, if you choose to join us, would be your time and your prayers.

Our group has completed a total of 194 prayer shawls and lap afghans since beginning in March of 2014. Special thanks to

the ladies who have abundantly shared the work of their hands to show the Love of God to those in need of comfort and prayer. We would also like to thank the members of Bethesda for your generosity. Through your contributions of yarn or money to buy yarn, we are able to continue this ministry of sharing.

We will appreciate your help in identifying people to receive these gifts. Please give the names of any persons who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl or lap afghan to one of the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Please prayerfully consider joining us on September 12.

## *September*

### **A Thought to Ponder**

### **A Message to Carry**

*"Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone - except God."*

-Billy Graham

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



## *“All God’s Creatures Have a Place in the Choir”*

Pastor Doug recently reminded us of an old children’s song, “All God’s creatures have a place in the choir! Some sing low and some sing higher!” How true! We need more voices to join us. Our Adult Choir will continue rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7:00 in the choir room. Please pray about what place you may have in the choir and consider joining us this fall.

The Children's Choir will sing for the worship service on September 3.

Voices of Grace will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 in the sanctuary. We would love to have some more voices join the VOG.

## *A Note from the Evening Circle*

We are about to begin another year of Bible study and fellowship. Our first meeting will be on September 11 at 6:00 pm at the home of Becky Adams. This will be our kick off with a dinner and meeting. Thank you for your hospitality Becky! We will then meet the first Monday of each month in the Session Room in the FLC at 6:30 pm. If there are changes we will note this at our meetings.

Our study this year will be from the book "Conversations on the Porch, by Beth Templeton. Beth was our speaker for the Spiritual Retreat in March and did a really great job! We will start with chapter 1, Eve -Blame and Grief. Everyone come prepared to discuss and answer questions on page 8. Remember, there are no wrong answers! Be ready to volunteer for the other lessons in the book for the year. Read over them and see which one speaks to your heart. We have two extra books and would love to have you join us!

Last year our circle had several projects funded from our contingent fund. These included: adding mulch around the sign out front and buying curtains and rods for two Sunday school rooms (thank you, Mike, for hanging them). We sponsored a child for Christmas from Brazil (thank you, Laura, for shopping!). We donated a pew Bible in memory of a loved one, prepared a food basket, and preserved some of our church history by restoring two photos. Please have some ideas for this year’s projects when we meet again.

We welcome Kristan Dunphy to our circle this year and look forward to getting to know her better. We welcome new members so each of us should ask others to join us. This is a prayerful time in our church with the choosing of elders before us, as well as the Holy Conversations Committee. And let’s don’t forget to come for the TGI Wednesday meals and fellowship. The choir is looking for anyone to make a joyful noise! Wow! So many opportunities!

We have another opportunity in our circle for a secretary position. After many years of devotion Margaret is hanging up her pencil and paper. We thank her for her many years of wonderful skills and working really hard to keep me on the right path, no easy thing!

I hope to see you all on September 11, full of enthusiasm and ready to begin another year!

Your sister in Christ,

Trudy Amick, Chairperson

2 Jane Johnson  
Steve Rawdon  
Anne Sanford  
3 Randy Neely  
4 Addison Johnson  
5 Calvin Alexander  
Esther Bailey  
Drew Hagler  
6 Cole Johnston  
7 Bill Russell, Jr  
9 Edith Gordon  
13 Mike Percival



22 Mark Boyd  
Jackie Johnson  
Myra Smith  
24 Emily Varnadore  
25 Katie Dunphy  
Sara Jones  
27 Amy Bell  
Steven Melton  
28 Lou Beaty  
David Hibbard  
Butch Allen III  
30 Pam McKinney

13 Ashley Varnadore  
15 Doris Jonas  
18 Dustin Melton  
Jennifer Williams  
21 Jim Carter, Sr  
Chris Dewey

# September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			TGI Wed Dinner <u>every</u> Wed at 6:30 starting Sept 6		1	2
3	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6 Choir Practice 7:30 Morning Circle 10:00 FH	7 Bible Study 7:00 FH	8	9
10 Personnel Comm. 5:00 SR CE Committee 6:30 LP	11 Boy Scouts FH 7:00 Evening Cir. 6:00 B. Adams house	12 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP Cub scouts 7:00 FH	13 Choir Practice 7:30	14 Bible Study 7:00 FH	15	16
17 Session Meeting 7:00	18 Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall 7:00	19 Cub scouts 7:00 FH	20 Choir Practice 7:30	21 Bible Study 7:00 FH	22	23
24 PATH Collection	25 Boy Scouts Fellowship Hall 7:00	26 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP Cub scouts 7:00 FH	27 Choir Practice 7:30	28 Bible Study 7:00 FH	30 Set up for the lunch will be Sat 9 am on Sept 31	<u>Oct 1</u> Pastor Appreciation Cov Dish after worship

## Remember in Prayer

**At Bethesda**

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

**Homebound**

Nancy Moore  
Amelia Simmers

**In the Community and Beyond**

Larry Rockholt  
Pat Jones Reeves  
Lilly Davis  
Christine Roberts  
Dorothy Hazard  
Mark Williams  
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

**Donnie Bailey**

Powell family  
Tony Hyatt family  
Family of Sandra Dover Honeycutt  
Those impacted by the hurricane in Texas

**Our Global Mission Partners**

Matias Family  
Palacios Family  
Driggers Family

*One Spirit ~ One Body ~ Many Gifts*

## Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*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 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

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?

O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

(Psalm 8:3-4, 9)

### **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

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Bethesda Presbyterian Church Staff:

Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Sarah Childers

CDC Director - Cindy Jackson

Caretaker - Mike Percival

Sexton - Donna Hagler