



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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The Hope of Now

I love this time of year. The blossoms sit on the trees, bringing the promise of life and beauty in what has seemed asleep and lifeless for so long. The sun and the rain join together bringing the promise of what is to come: warmth and lush greenery. This is the time when we welcome in spring. And this is the season when we welcome Easter.

The noted New Testament scholar N. T. Wright reminds us that Easter is always something that plays out in the earth around us, not in some other distant world or in some far-removed heaven. He writes, "Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven."

At Easter we don't just celebrate our hope for life after death, we celebrate our hope for life now, for new life filled with the hope and love of heaven now. In this season of Easter we are reminded again and again of God's insistence that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. This is not just a promise of some future time, it is a promise we can claim, experience and live right now!

So dear friends, what is like a tomb in your life? What in your life is like a tree in winter seemingly lifeless and asleep? We lift those places up to God with prayers that remember God's faithfulness. And that in the risen Christ we have everything to hope for right now!

God Bless,

Doug

Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7

Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, March 18, 2019. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received the financial report
- Received monthly committee reports
- Approved two additional tellers to count contributions
- Approved renewal of all church insurance policies
- Approved the Sunday School curriculum for 2018-2019 for children and youth
- Approved the formation of a Personnel Committee as a standing Sessional committee, with meetings to be scheduled at least quarterly, or as needed
- Received the Pastor's Report

Board of Trustees Meeting:

The Board of Trustees of the Corporation met on Sunday, March 18, 2018. The following items were covered at this meeting:

- Approved consolidation of the Bethesda checking and savings accounts, to be deposited into checking and savings accounts at the Bank of York
- Approved signers for these accounts
- Approved a slight modification of the Investment Policy, to require meeting with the financial advisors for the Bethesda Investment Accounts (Endowment Fund, Cemetery Fund, and Williamson Endowment Fund) twice annually, in March and September, for the purpose of receiving updates on account performance

HC Team Will Soon Complete Its Work

The Holy Conversations team has completed its time of prayerful reflection. Over the past year, with your support, we have grown to understand who we are as Christ's church at Bethesda. We have listened as the Lord has reminded us of our strengths and His gracious gifts. This month we will report our learnings to the Session. Then on Sunday, May 20, we ask that you join us for a fellowship lunch and a time for our team to share the results of our discernment and Holy Conversation. During the presentation you will have the opportunity to add information.

It is our hope that God will respond to the prayers of his people by strengthening our commitment to the service to which he has called us, both as individuals and as a united church. We must remember that Bethesda Church is **Christ's** church and through us He will build it for His glory. We pray for the Spirit to fill us with a passionate desire to grow in Christ's likeness and to experience an increased love for His church and his Word.

The Holy Conversations process has been an important preparatory step in the discernment of His will for Bethesda. It moves us further along in the direction of the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee. Our team asks for ongoing prayers for Bethesda and its leaders as God works in the hearts of His people, in particular, His church here at Bethesda. *To God Alone Be the Glory*

Welcome the Liturgist to the Pulpit

Beginning in April we are pleased to have a Liturgist participate in certain parts of our worship service. The Liturgist will serve for a month and take responsibility for the Announcements, Call to Worship, Response to the Word after the sermon, and the Offertory Call. In April we welcome Cathy Goodband to serve as our Liturgist. Please support Cathy with your prayers and words of encouragement. If you are interested in serving as Liturgist, please contact the Worship Committee for more information.

Celebrate Homecoming

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Sunday May 6, 2018 11:00

Covered Dish Lunch After Worship Service

PW Hold "Baby shower" for Thornwell

Bethesda Presbyterian Women held their spring retreat on Saturday, March 17, 2018. The theme was "Celebrate Spring, Dance in the Rain." *"You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy."* Ps. 30:11

Joy Messner, a representative from Thornwell, gave a presentation about services they offer. Thornwell has been helping families across South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida since 1875. In addition to offering residential care for children through foster care, they offer training and support programs for parents through their Strengthening Families Program.

One of their newest programs is a cottage dedicated to young mothers. Bethesda PW sponsored a baby shower for this cottage as part of the retreat on March 17th. Many, many baby items were contributed. In addition, more than \$600 was contributed in cash, checks and gift cards.

A Message from Guest Speaker, Joy Messner:

Many thanks again for all you did to provide for our new Young Mother's Cottage (Sarah's Cottage) on Saturday at your Spring PW Gathering! We are overwhelmed with blessings from you! And we are so grateful for the outpouring of love!...The young mothers have a long road ahead of them – and many obstacles to overcome. But we are praying that with counsel and guidance, that they will learn how to care for their babies by making right choices in their lives. Please keep these girls (and their children) in your prayers.

Bethesda's PW contributed an abundance of gifts to the baby shower for the new Young Mother's Cottage at Thornwell.



Providence Presbytery PW Gathering

The Providence Presbytery Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 7 at First Presbyterian Church in York. Registration begins at 8:45. Cost for lunch will be \$10. The speaker will be Ainslee Moss, Director of Tender Hearts. The offering collected will go to Tender Hearts. If anyone wishes to carpool, we will leave Bethesda at 8:30.

Estate Planning Seminar

Bethesda will host a short seminar on *Preparing Your Estate Plan* on April 24 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Session Room. Attorney Malissa Church will be available to answer questions. Light refreshments will be served. If you plan to attend, please call Sheila Stewart at 803-366-0510 by April 20.





Happy Spring from Bethesda CDC! We will be taking our spring/graduation pictures on Friday April 13th. K-4 parents, mark your calendars for the 2018 graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 24th at 7 pm in the Family Life Center. All are welcome even if you don't have a graduate in your family!

As the season is changing, please make sure that you check your child's classroom to ensure they have proper clothing supplies.

Happy Birthday to: Ms Cindy, Ms Janice, Ms Shelby, Jordan S, Lilah G, Aubrey S, Eli G, and Monroe D. God Bless!

Colors of Grace

Our **Maundy Thursday Worship Service** will be at 7:00 pm on March 29. The choir along with the congregation will be presenting *Colors of Grace* by Joseph M. Martin. The following is included in the forward of this work: During Holy Week, the last days of Christ are often characterized with words like suffering and darkness. Taking a closer look, however, we can see suffering and darkness were, in fact, instruments of great joy and light. From Thursday evening's Passover meal through Friday's dark hours on the cross, the light of Christ continued to illuminate the Truth. With intense clarity, the Teacher was showing us by example the greatest lessons in his ministry - service, obedience, humility and forgiveness. Through Christ, the full spectrum of God's grace is reflected in beautiful hues upon our lives.

In the suffering of this Holy Week, find joy. In its darkness, see Light. "For the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) This is the power of Christ's grace and the source of great joy. **We hope that you and your family will come to hear and immerse yourselves in the *Colors of Grace*.**

On Easter morning, we will gather outside at 7:00 am in front of the church for a brief **Sunrise Service** and special music to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Please join us afterwards for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. **Worship Service** will be held at 11:00.

Both the adult and the children's choirs will be singing.

Bible Study

Thursday Nights 7:00

The study of the book of Mark begins April 5

Join Us!

March

A Thought to Ponder

A Message to Carry

For you will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John.

- C. S. Lewis

If you would like to share your "Thought to Ponder," you may submit it for the May edition of the Bethesda Banner at newsletter@bethesdapres.org



Children and Youth Ministry

Saturday March 31 Easter Egg Hunt 2:00 Youth are needed to help. If you can help, please let Sarah know. You will need to be at the church at 1:30.

Sunday April 8 Youth will meet in the gym from 5 - 6:30 for Bible study, games and snacks. Bring a friend!

Sunday April 15 Laser Tag and Moes We will leave the church at 4:00 to go to Revolutions in Rock Hill for two games of Laser Tag and then to Moes for dinner. Cost is \$15. We'll return at 6:30.

Sunday April 22 Worship for YOUTH at Bethelwoods. We'll join other youth groups for games, dinner and worship. Cost is \$5. We'll leave the church at 3:45 and return around 7 pm.

For more information, contact Sarah Childers, Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministries

(803) 417-0693 schilders@comporium.net

A Note for Parents

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for your children to use during worship. The items in the bags will help your older children (readers) follow along during the service and a page to take notes of some of the things they hear. There are items for younger children in the bags also. There is a basket of books with the bags if your child would like to choose a book to take to their seat. After the worship service, please return the books and bags to the Narthex. We hope this helps you teach your children the how and why of worshipping God.

Registration for Summer Camp at Bethelwoods is now open. The Summer 2018 Programs can be viewed at www.bethelwoods.org. You may also register your child online. Please see [Sarah](#) before registering. Scholarships may be available.

The Third Annual **Don Rowland Pancakes for Missions and Silent Auction** will be held on **May 19** in the FLC from 8:00 - 10:30 am.



If you have items, services, vacation home, etc that you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please let Sarah know. The money raised will go toward the 2019 trip to Guatemala and the youth trip to Thornwell Children's Home this summer.

From the Worship Committee

Welcome all to the House of God

When we enter the sanctuary we come before a Holy God. Here God dwells among us where “two or three are gathered in his name.” In the sanctuary, “There is the convergence of awe, reverence, adoration, honor, worship, confidence, thankfulness, love, and yes, fear.” (Rev. Dr. Robert Strimple, Moderator of the General Assembly 1986). In God’s House, the actions and attitudes of authentic worship should befit the King of kings and Lord of lords. Welcome, all.

Last month the Worship Committee began a five part series, written by Teresa L. Stricklen, Associate for Worship Presbyterian Church (USA). In her article “The Order of Worship,” she explains why we worship the way we do. This month we continue with the second element - preparing our hearts before receiving the Word of God.

Part 2: Confession of Sin and Response

Call to Confession

Even as we praise God and encounter the Lord’s Spirit/breath, we realize there are impediments that keep us from our best desires to worship. God loves us enough to call us to confess whatever gets in the way of having a good relationship with the Holy One of Perfect Love. When someone wrongs us, we have the responsibility of calling it to their attention so that the relationship that has been harmed can be restored and healed. If we fail to say anything and just ignore them instead, we are not exhibiting love. A call to confession is a call to further love, which God does with a reassurance of divine good intentions toward us so that we’re not afraid to confess our shortcomings in the light of God’s love.

Confession of Sin

Sin is not just what we’ve done wrong, though committing sins (wrongdoing) is the result of sin. Rather, sin is a *condition* in which we fall short of God’s hopes for us and in which we are separated from God. It is a state in which it is impossible to make amends on our own; we are caught by the recognition of sin and our inability to set things right. The only thing we can do is turn to Christ and ask that he forgive and conquer sin for us in our current situation. Sin is both individual and social in nature. Even though we don’t want or mean to, we sin just by belonging to certain groups who sin against others. Sin is complex and inescapable. So Presbyterians are big on having confessions of sin in almost every worship service since the greatest sin may be the unwillingness to admit that we are sinful. Because sin is corporate in nature, as well as individual, we say a corporate prayer together for the sin we live in and sins we commit as groups; we also have time for silent prayer to confess our individual sin and sins and to offer up our shortcomings before God, so that we might be drawn closer to him, live more in accord with his good desires for humanity, and be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

As we confess our shortcomings and God offers us the assurance that in Jesus Christ—who lived, died, and was raised to show us the power of God’s love that conquers the power of sin—we are forgiven and loved regardless of what we have done in the past. We have the assurance that we are continually being made new into the Image of Christ. The slate is wiped clean and we can live in hope toward the future without being enslaved to our past failures. In Christ, we have the power to work with God’s Spirit who is continually making all things in accord with the divine purpose.

Response

Because the assurance of pardon in Christ is such good news, we’ve got to respond to the message of God’s love with joy and thanksgiving. Usually we do this in song that comes bursting forth with full-throttle praise or reflective wonder.

Passing of the Peace

This is an ancient greeting of brothers and sisters in Christ. After the preliminary entrance rites in which we enter into God’s presence, we greet one another with the peace of Christ as common forgiven sinners. As we are forgiven, so we forgive. This is also a good time to reconcile with those family members who drove us crazy trying to get to church on time, church members with whom we have tensions, or people we’re not so happy to see. What is acknowledged as most important between us at this time in the service is the peace of Christ that passes all understanding (and misunderstanding!).

The peace may also come at other times in the service and function in different ways. A passing of the peace before the offering and communion, for example, is an opportunity to reconcile with our brother or sister before we present our gift at the offering. Regardless of where it comes in the service and how it functions, the passing of the peace stresses what the community has in common - the grace of God in Christ that holds us all in communion with one another regardless of how we feel about it.

Next Month Part 3: To Hear a Word from the Lord

Notes of Thanks

Dear Friends at Bethesda,

The family of Vic Adkins would like to thank all who prayed, sent cards, visited and prepared meals during his sickness and death. All of these kindnesses were and are much appreciated. Vic loved Bethesda and his time spent there. Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.

- Family of Vic Adkins

Dear Bethesda Presbyterian Church Members,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200 worth of sweet cereal to fill the tummies and delight the children in our care. We appreciate your kindness. Blessings to each of you!

- Children's Attention Home

Thank you so much for your generous donation to PATH ministries. You have made it much easier to supply our clients with basic necessities that we often take for granted. Again, thank you for your donation of food in December and 32 pounds of mixed grocery items in January and 23 pounds of grocery and toiletry items in February. We appreciate you so much!

- Beth Kane, PATH Ministries

Prison Ministry Training

A training program for the Prison Ministry Volunteers will be on May 10 at 7 pm at the Moss Justice Center, York in the Conference Room. The program will last about 2 ½ hours. Both men and women are needed to volunteer for the separate cell blocks. If interested, please contact Ed Williamson 327-1588.

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon
Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
Bobby Kaye Hagler
Family of Vic Adkins
Family of Martha Costner (Liz Blackwell's mother)
Pat Williamson
Patsy Walker
Robert Messer
McKinesie Rockholt

Ainsley Darby
Louann Hildebrand
Charles and Kelly Williamson
Our Session
Our Pastor

Homebound

Amelia Simmers
Robert Jones

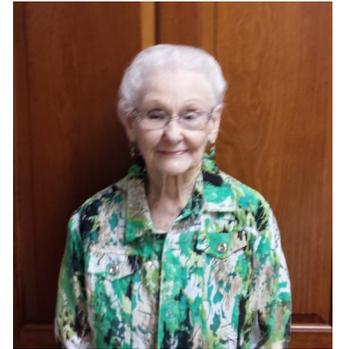
In the Community and Beyond

Larry Rockholt
Christine Roberts

Dorothy Hazard
Beverly Sledge
Laney Allen
Chris Brackett
Reed Wagner
Elsa Carabello
Eva Bailey
Luke Gunter
Bobby Griggs
Nickie Anthony
Walt Bratton
Bob Dickson
Anne M Lane

2018 Legacy of Faith Award

Bethesda Presbyterian Church has chosen to celebrate **Ina Oates at Providence Presbyterian's Legacy of Faith Picnic on April 17**. Ms Ina has been chosen for this honor for her many years of dedication to this church and for the witness of her strong faith. She stands as a beautiful example of quietly living her life built on the Firm Foundation of Christ. As a retired nurse, she worked out her faith on a daily basis, ministering to many patients during her thirty-nine year career. She was a long time member of the Worship Committee, coordinating the weekly flower calendar and organizing and collecting contributions for special holiday flowers. She is a faithful member of the Ione Williams Sunday School class and has shared teaching duties for this class over the years. She is also a member of the morning circle and regularly participates in their projects and activities. For many years she has prepared and served an annual Christmas Feast in her home for circle members and their spouses, presenting each circle member the gift of a homemade fruitcake. In addition, she prepares and presents the devotion at monthly circle meetings and serves as treasurer.



Ms Ina is known by all as caring, giving and compassionate. She shares her love with the members of the congregation by sending cards for special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. She greets everyone with kind words and her beautiful smile, and is especially loved by the children. We are pleased to recognize Ina Oates for this award.

The Legacy Award Picnic will be held on April 17 at Bethelwoods picnic shelter from 10:30 to noon. Anyone who wishes to attend may register by calling Colleen at Bethelwoods (803-366-3722) or online at info@bethelwoods.org. The cost for lunch is \$10.

Casey Lane

A P and Net Plexico
Randy and Virginia Medley
Robert Feller's granddaughter
Hildegard and Jim Bell's granddaughter
Family of Audrey Calzada (South Point High student)
Family of Pat Jones Reeves
Thornwell and their New Mother's Cottage

Our Global Mission Partners

Matias Family
Palacios Family
Driggers Family

March 29 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00
March 31 Easter Egg Hunt 2:00

APRIL

Committee Meetings
CDC April 10 6:30 SR
Cong. Life April 8 4:00 FH
CE April 8 6:30 LP
Personnel April 15 6:00
Worship April 5 5:00 SR
CHOIR meets every Wed at 7:30

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	
1 Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 Worship 11:00	2 Evening Circle 6:30 Office and CDC closed	3	4 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	5 Bible Study 7:00 FH	6
8 New Members Class 9:45 LP	9 HC Committee 7:30 SR Boy Scouts FH 7:00	10 Cub Scouts FH 7:00 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP	11 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30 Morning Circle 10:00 FH	12 Bible Study 7:00 FH	13
15 Session Meeting 7:00 New Members Class 9:45 LP	16 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	17 Legacy of Faith picnic 10:30 - noon Bethelwoods	18 Staff Meeting 10:00 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	19 Bible Study 7:00 FH	20
22	23 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	24 Cub Scouts FH 7:00 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP Estate Planning Seminar 6:00	25 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30	26 Bible Study 7:00 FH	27
29 5th Sunday Covered Dish Lunch PATH Collection	30 Boy Scouts FH 7:00				

MOC Breakfast
8:00 am FH



Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Emily Dunphy | 13 Eden Shannon |
| 2 Elizabeth Ann Walker | 14 Asa Sternagle |
| 5 Walter Jonas | 17 Keith Dover |
| 6 Frank Allen | 18 Justin Rowland |
| 7 Immanuel Rowland | 21 Pierce Dewey |
| 8 Margaret Moore | 22 Preston Sharpe |
| 9 Alissa Sternagle | 23 Daniel Blaikie |
| 10 Sean Goodband | 24 Doug Blaikie |
| 11 Bill Johnson | 24 Joe Forlines |
| 11 Meredith Killian | 25 Billy Johnston, Jr |
| 13 Don Faris | 28 Todd Russell |

March Elders on Duty

John Nettles Stacy Russell Johnny Walker

March Attendance

		Worship	Sunday School
March 4	67	43	
March 11	78	42	
March 18	80	43	
March 25	72	52	

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*4858 McConnells Hwy.
York, South Carolina 29745*

Phone: 803.328.1360

Email: bethesda@comporium.net

Website: www.bethesdapres.org



Our Pastor:

Rev. Doug Blaikie

Our Elders:

Ralph Adams

Darius Alexander

Trey Amick

Mark Boyd

Steve Childers

Debbie Darby

Cheryl Forlines

John Nettles

Karen Percival

Stacy Russell

Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

Clerk - Ernice Bookout

Treasurer - Todd Russell

President of the Corporation -
Ralph Adams

Join Us

Maundy Thursday Service March 29 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service April 1 7:00 am

Breakfast Immediately Following

Worship Service 11:00

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:

Head of Staff - Rev. Doug Blaikie Secretary/Bookkeeper - Pat Jones

Director of Music Ministry - LaRayne Hall

Director of Children/Youth Ministries - Sarah Childers

Caretaker - Mike Percival Sexton - Donna Hagler