

May 2018

Volume MMXVIII Issue 5

## Bethesda Presbyterian Church

# Bethesda Banner

### 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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### It's a Wonderful World

I have heard it said one of the few constants in life is change. There is truth found in that statement. May is a time of transition for many families with graduations occurring. (Now kids even graduate from pre-school!) Some will face the empty nest as their last child prepares to go off to college while others try and figure out what they are going to do with their children during the summer months. Graduates themselves will be headed off to college or careers.

As frightening as change can be, change is necessary for growth and maturity to happen. You don't plant a garden and not expect the seeds to sprout, grow and produce good things to eat. Children will begin another year of education or start their careers, but the growth is always marked by change. I am reminded of the song "It's a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong and the line where he sings,

*I hear babies cry, and I watch them grow. They'll learn much more than I'll ever know, And I think to myself, it's a wonderful world.*

It is a wonderful world with a creator God who loves His creation. We can celebrate the change and growth because that is God's design for the world. We can move boldly into the future because we follow a God who leads from the future. We can move forward with confidence and grow into the future because we know that change is not the only constant in our life – the love and presence of God is forever our companion. See you in worship as we grow together in Christ's love.

God Bless,

Doug

**From the day of  
 Pentecost until the  
 present time, it  
 has been  
 necessary to be of  
 one accord in  
 prayer before the  
 Spirit of God will  
 work with mighty  
 converting power.**  
 - John Mott

### *Session Highlights*

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, April 15, 2018. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received committee reports
- Received the budget report
- Received an indepth report from the Holy Conversations Committee, including a Power point presentation and detailed handouts
- Approved renovation of the playground proposed by the Child Development Center
- Approved installation of plantation shutters in the upstairs balcony of the sanctuary to preserve and prevent further damage to chairs and floor
- Discussed tentative plans for the Providence Presbytery Meeting to be held at Bethesda on Sunday, June 10, 2018. Noted that the support of all members of the congregation will be needed to help prepare for and host this meeting. More information to follow.
- Received the Pastor’s Report

### *Help Make Homecoming 2018 One to Remember*

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> is the 258<sup>th</sup> Homecoming at Bethesda. Let’s join together to rejoice in the blessings God has bestowed on His church with worship and praise. Take this opportunity to invite friends, family or someone seeking a relationship with Christ’s family to join us in a celebration of love and fellowship. Worship service will be followed by a covered dish fellowship meal. Bring your favorite dish or just show up for the fellowship. During our meal we will look back with love and laughter on those whose shoulders we now stand upon and reflect on how much we have *grown* in Christ.

### *Are You Called to Serve as a Liturgist?*

Thank you, Cathy Goodband, for serving as Liturgist for the month of April. The Liturgist participates in certain parts of our worship service, taking the responsibility for the Announcements, Call to Worship, Response to the Word after the sermon, and the Offertory Call. For the month of May, **Will Johnston** will be our Liturgist. If you are interested in serving as Liturgist, please contact the Worship Committee or Pastor Doug for more info.

### *Bethesda’s New Channel Shares with the World*

Bethesda sermons are now available on YouTube. Follow the link from the Bethesda website ([www.bethesdapres.org](http://www.bethesdapres.org)) to the **Bethesda YouTube channel**. While there, subscribe to the channel and share this link with others. Over the next few months we will be adding more content to share our passion for Christ – Stay Connected!

#### *April Attendance*

|          | Worship | Sunday School |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| April 1  | 134     | 54            |
| April 8  | 67      | 45            |
| April 15 | 61      | 53            |
| April 22 | 76      | 50            |
| April 29 | 75      | 45            |

#### *May Elders on Duty*

Debbie Darby  
 Karen Percival  
 Todd Russell



## Child Development Center



A Ministry of Bethesda  
Presbyterian Church

Bethesda CDC is focusing on our summer programs as the school year's end is quickly approaching. God has blessed us with a full roster of children in all of our summer programs. We are currently taking enrollment for our K-4 fall program that will start August 27th. The K-4 enrollment fee is \$100. Please contact Cindy or Dawn to register.

Teacher appreciation week is May 7-11. Don't forget to thank them!

The center will be holding our **K-4 graduation ceremony** on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

The Center will be closed on Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day. We would like to thank Ms Esther for her 25 years of service to the CDC! Happy Birthday to: Ms Ginger, Ella C, Ryleigh I, Cassidy B, Sam D, Lauren H, Weston G, Thomas G, and Adrielle H.

## Rolling River Rampage

**Vacation Bible School** will be held **June 11-14**. Our theme this year is Rolling River Rampage: *Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!* We are in need of volunteers in the following areas: 3 & 4 year olds; K5 & 1st grade; 2nd & 3rd grades; 4th & 5th grades; Science/Recreation; cook and set up for dinner; clean up after dinner; set up for VBS on Saturday, June 9 at 9 am in the Family Life Center; set up for VBS on Monday, June 11 at 9 am in the Sanctuary; and clean up after VBS on Thursday, June 14 at 8:15 pm. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Sarah, [schilders@comporium.net](mailto:schilders@comporium.net) or (803)417-0693.

## PW - Bible Study, Food, and Fellowship

The **Evening Circle** will meet on Monday, May 7 at 6:00 at the home of Ernice Bookout for dinner and their last lesson before the summer break. In the fall they will continue their studies from their current study book.

On Wednesday, May 2 the **Morning Circle** will meet at the home of Dorothy Williamson for lunch and their last lesson until meetings begin again in the fall.

Nine ladies from Bethesda attended the Providence Presbytery Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian in York on April 7. Our Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration will be held on June 3 at 4:00 and our Salad Supper will be held August 19 at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall. ALL ladies are invited even if you haven't been attending circle meetings. If you are not part of one of the Ladies' Circles, please consider joining in the fall when both circles will start back meeting once a month.

## May

### A Passage to Ponder

#### Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;  
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
 a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
 a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
 a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
 a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
 a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
 a time to love, and a time to hate;  
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Celebrate Homecoming  
2018*

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Sunday May 6, 2018 11:00

Covered Dish Lunch After Worship Service

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, a powerful storm came through and destroyed three huge oaks in the front yard of the church as well as some other trees around the property. Many of us were saddened by the loss of these 100 year old trees and the history they represent. However, as I reflected on the loss, I couldn't help but appreciate the blessings. First of all, there were no injuries or damage to buildings or other property. Thanks to the Lord for this!

Then I started to really think about the whole afternoon. Within a couple of hours following the storm, Bethesda Fire Department was there cleaning up the damage. There were also many members of the congregation with chains, tractors, gloves, saws, doing whatever they could to help. Later that evening the Holy Conversations Committee presented their report to the Session. One of the questions they asked was "Who are we as a church?" To me, that question was answered that afternoon. The number of people, old and young, members of the church, and members of the community united and worked together for a common cause. When God's people are unified, He is glorified. Sometimes He works in mysterious ways – perhaps the storm was a sign that reminds us that 100 year old trees can be destroyed, but the ties that bind us as Christ's church remain strong.

- Elder Karen Percival



## Children and Youth Ministry

**Sunday May 6 Common Ground** at Faith Presbyterian Church in Indian Land. We'll leave at 4 pm and return around 7:45. We'll have pizza, gaga ball and other games, and we will assemble health kits for ROC. Please bring one or more of the following items for the health kits: trial sizes of toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, washcloth, comb/brush, toothbrush.

**Sunday May 13** Youth and adults will serve at **Plentiful Harvest Kitchen** at Covenant Presbyterian Church from 2 - 6 pm. Meet at Covenant. Let Sarah know if you plan to help.

**Saturday May 19 Pancake Breakfast** in the FLC 8:00 - 10:30 am.

**Sunday May 20 Music and Ice Cream Fellowship.** 4 - 6 pm in the picnic shelter.

**Sunday May 27 Laser Tag** at Bowl-n-Bounce in Lake Wylie. We'll leave the church at 4 pm and return around 7. Cost is \$15 for laser tag and pizza.

**Upcoming:** Thornwell Mission Trip June 17- 22 and Summer Retreat in the Mountains July 9 - 11

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

**Are you someone who likes to love on babies and play with toddlers?** Then we have just the thing for you! We are in need of nursery volunteers for the following dates: May 27, June 17, and June 24. If you are willing, able, and available, please consider helping in this very important MINISTRY. Let Sarah know which date(s) you would like to help.

**Congratulations** to the following children and youth for their Perfect Attendance in Sunday School!

- March** Elizabeth Bull  
Reagan Hall  
Jordan Hose
- April** Carolann Bull  
Elizabeth Bull  
Grayson Darby  
Reagan Hall

**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.



### May Dates for Your Calendar

- May 6 Homecoming - Covered Dish Luncheon
- May 13 Mother's Day
- May 19 Pancake Breakfast and Auction 8 - 10:30 am
- May 20 Pentecost Sunday      Graduation Sunday      Covered Dish Luncheon
- May 20 Music and Ice Cream Fellowship 4:00

## Holy Conversations

As you are aware, last spring the Session approved the formation of a mission study team comprised of members from the congregation and the Session, seeking God's will for His church at Bethesda. The team of three men and five women has been guided by Rev. Blaikie, utilizing a study text by Gil Rendel and Alex Mann entitled *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*. We are now ready and excited to share with you the insights, inspiration, and calling gained through our study.

**On Sunday, May 20 the Holy Conversation team will deliver the worship message in our morning service.** We will celebrate Pentecost Sunday, a special day in the life of Christ's Church and in the life of Bethesda. Much like the Holy Spirit rushed in and indwelt the hearts of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, we at Bethesda will have an opportunity to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts and our midst. Through the power of His transformative work, may we be *Re-Minded* of our need to be *Re-Formed* in the likeness of Christ. May we be inspired to *Re-Commit* ourselves, both as individuals and as a body of believers, to serving and following Him.

Following the morning worship, a covered dish fellowship meal will be held in the Family Life Center. Please plan to join us on this very important Pentecost Sunday at Bethesda.

**Graduation Sunday** will be May 20, 2018. If you or anyone you know in the church will be graduating in May or June, please let Pat know in the church office or contact the Worship Committee.

## Remember in Prayer

### At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon  
Bill Dover  
Michelle Melton  
Steve Rawdon  
Bobby Kaye Hagler  
Family of Vic Adkins  
Family of Martha Costner  
Pat Williamson  
Patsy Walker  
Robert Messer  
McKinesie Rockholt  
Ainsley Darby

Sonny Moore

Nancy Smith  
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  
Walt Bratton  
Bob Dickson  
A P and Net Plexico  
Randy and Virginia Medley  
Roy Caveny  
Caleb Dickson

Betty Carroll

Donnie Greene  
Patricia Greene  
Jim & Hildegard Bell's granddaughter  
Family of Pat Jones Reeves  
Family of Bobby Griggs  
New Mother's Cottage at Thornwell

### Our Global Mission Partners

Matias Family  
Palacios Family  
Driggers Family

## Making a Difference in Sao Paulo

Dear Bethesda Family,

Greetings from Sao Paulo, Brazil! We, the Matias family, are doing well overall. We have had many changes in our lives the last few months, and soon a newsletter sharing more will be coming your way! Our biggest news is that we have decided to change to a different mission agency to process our financial support from the USA. We have joined the Brazilian Evangelistic Association (BEA - [beaministries.com](http://beaministries.com)) and we will continue to serve in the same ministry, reaching out to kids living in the slums of Sao Paulo. Hopefully, this change will help us by keeping us stronger in the field, so we can continue to serve the Lord here in Brazil! May the Lord bless you all at Bethesda!



Love from Brazil,

Laura, Felipe, Sophia, Jessie & Josiah

## A Note of Thanks

Dear Prayer Shawl Committee,

I am so thankful to you for the Lap Afghan which you made for me. I will always treasure it. I am sure it will be used in my recovery from surgery and I'll think of you every time I use it.

Love,

Bobbie Kaye  
April 19, 2018

## *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.) In God’s House, the actions and attitudes of authentic worship should befit the King of kings and Lord of lords. In March the Worship Committee began a five part series, written by Teresa L. Stricklen, Associate for Worship PCUSA. In her article “The Order of Worship,” she explains why we worship the way we do.

### **TO HEAR A WORD FROM THE LORD (Part 3 of the series for the month of May)**

When we are truly sorry, we listen to what it is the person we have wronged would have us do to make things better between us. After the time of confession and assurance that we all live as forgiven sinners in the light of Christ, we move deeper into relationship with God by hearing the Word of the Lord. God’s Word comes to us in many ways - through scripture, special music, sermons. The words spoken are quite human, including those of scripture, yet God chooses to speak through them. Listen for God’s eternal Word addressing you with good news about the Lord’s love for you and all people among all the human words. Presbyterians believe the Word is central to our faith; hence, we put the service of the Word right in the middle of our service.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

This is a prayer for the Spirit to open our lives to really hear God’s Word among human words. Without the Spirit to help us discern God’s voice, the words that we hear are just a bunch of dead letters that cannot adequately convey the living, transformative nature of the Word of God.

### **Scripture**

Since before the time of Christ, the Jewish tradition, which Jesus participated in, has had a list (a lectionary) of appropriate readings (lections) for daily prayer services. The Christian church continued this tradition, though the lectionary was often not used by revival preachers from the nineteenth century on in the United States. Shaped by both revival and liturgical traditions, your church may or may not use the New Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three-year list of an Old Testament, Psalm, Gospel, and Epistle reading for each Sunday and special holy days. When the three years are up, we start over again with Year A. What the lectionary does is help us experience the broad sweep of God’s salvific work over the course of the church year. Sometimes the lections are designed to run continuously through a book of the Bible to help form our faith through one particular Biblical book. Those churches who do not follow a lectionary follow whatever the pastor discerns needs to be preached from scripture. Other churches may choose to follow the Reformation’s *lectio continua* tradition of reading through a book of the Bible and preaching on its various sections.

### **Anthem**

God’s Word can come to us in a variety of ways—not just through scripture and preaching. God speaks through many means, including music. Indeed, many people say God speaks best to them through the music of the church. Having a choir or band of instruments isn’t about good musicians putting on a superb recital in the middle of the service, which is why applause isn’t appropriate for anyone but God in a worship service. We are not being entertained by a musical interlude. Of course, sometimes we burst into applause as a way of expressing thanks for the Spirit that has moved us, but we need to be careful that worship is not perceived as us getting something, but about giving ourselves to God in praise, prayer and service. Sometimes the anthem is done as an offertory, an offering of our gifts in thanksgiving for all God’s gifts to us. The choir is intended to be representative of the congregation’s voices rising in praise or petition to God. Similarly, God speaks to us through the music of the choir. So when the choir sings, the people become instruments—instruments of the congregation and/or instruments of God’s Spirit blowing through them to sing the good news.

### **Sermon**

Though spoken through a person, we are to hear the sermon as God speaking to us. Thus, some sermons begin with the Triune ascription: “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Preaching is the announcement of God’s good news in Christ who invites us to participate in the ongoing activity of God at work in the world to bring about redemption, not only for us, but for all of creation. The sermon is usually based upon one or more scripture readings and unfolds the Bible in such a way that we see how God is continuing to speak to us today in ways that are similar to those experienced by our ancestors of the faith. Basically, the sermon is God’s dynamic, eternal Word spoken to us in such a way that we might hear what God has to say to us and be encouraged to follow the Lord in faith.

*Next Month Part 4: Respond in Joyful Service*

| <p><b>Note:</b> Cub Scouts meet every Tuesday 7:00 FH<br/>                 Boy Scouts meet every Monday 7:00 FH<br/>                 Choir meets every Wed 7:30</p> |  |   | MAY  |  | <p><b>Committee Meetings</b><br/> <b>Admin/Stewardship</b> May 6 6:00 SR<br/> <b>CE</b> May 9 7:30 LP<br/> <b>Congregational Life</b> TBD<br/> <b>Worship</b> TBD</p> |   |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| SUN   | MON  | TUE                                       | WED  | THU  |   |   |
|   |  | 1   | 2 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30<br>Morning Circle<br>Lunch Dorothy's | 3 Bible Study 7:00 FH  | 4   | 5 MOC Breakfast 8:00 FH<br>Homecoming Set-up 9 am FLC |
| 6 Homecoming Covered Dish Lunch   | 7 Evening Circle 6:30 Ernice's house<br>Scouts FH 7:00                 | 8 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP<br>CDC Dinner 6:30 | 9 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30                                      | 10 Bible Study 7:00 FH   | 11  | 12  |
| 13 Plentiful Harvest Meal 2-6 at Covenant Pres<br><b>Mother's Day</b>   | 14 Boy Scouts FH 7:00  | 15  | 16 Staff Meeting 10:00<br>TGI Wed Dinner 6:30              | 17 Bible Study 7:00 FH   | 18 Pancake Breakfast Set-up 6 pm FLC  | 19 Pancake Breakfast and Auction 8:00 - 10:30 am FLC  |
| 20 Session Meeting 7:00<br>Cov Dish Lunch<br>Ice Cream/Music Fellowship 4:00  | 21 Boy Scouts FH 7:00  | 22 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP                   | 23 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30                                     | 24 Bible Study 7:00 FH<br>CDC K-4 Graduation/Reception 7 pm Sanctuary/FH | 25  | 26  |
| 27 PATH Collection  | 28 Boy Scouts FH 7:00<br><b>Office and CDC closed for Memorial Day</b> | 29  | 30 TGI Wed Dinner 6:30                                     | 31 Bible Study 7:00 FH   |   |   |



- |                    |                      |                         |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Kitty Sharpe     | 11 Jean Blaikie      | 20 Lily Hull            |
| 2 Patt Lauckner    | 14 Gene Williamson   | 20 Logan Johnston       |
| 2 Kevin Walker     | 15 Josh Faulkenberry | 26 Ray Johnson          |
| 3 Christy Johnston | 15 Robert Feller, Sr | 27 Deanna Johnson       |
| 6 Kristan Dunphy   | 15 Cayden McDaniel   | 29 Susie Alexander      |
| 10 Cheryl Forlines | 16 Chase Hope        | 29 Lauren Hibbard       |
| 10 Nell Glover     | 17 Hailey Carter     | 31 Robert Moffit/Melton |
| 10 Cadence Lackey  | 19 Josiah Walker     |                         |

*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)*

Join Us for Homecoming Sunday

May 6, 2018

Covered Dish Lunch After Worship Service

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

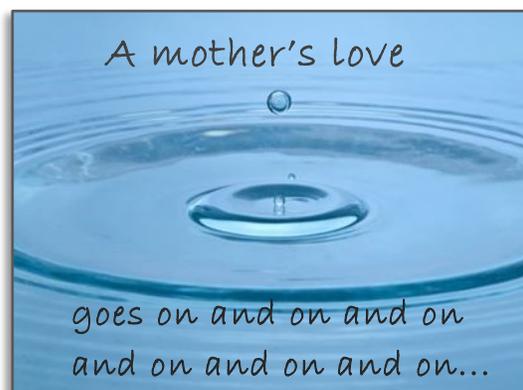
Todd Russell

Johnny Walker

Clerk - Ernice Bookout

Treasurer - Todd Russell

President of the Corporation -  
Ralph Adams



Happy Mother's Day!

May 13

### **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