



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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I was relaxing after preaching and then the storm struck. There was the loud howl of the wind and the crack of close lightening strikes. But then I heard a series of new sounds that I have never before encountered during a severe thunderstorm. They sounded like powerful, crisp gunshots. That drove me to the outside and what I saw stunned me – our beautiful oaks struck down covering the parking lot and another large tree blocking my driveway. I felt trapped! The task of removing those fallen giants seemed enormous.

But then a beautiful thing happened as the Bethesda community came to the rescue. Within a half-hour the wonderful Bethesda Fire Department was on the scene and soon we had a large group of Bethesda members coming to help. The roar of those chain saws was music to the ears and comforted a storm struck soul. In only three hours a task that I thought would have taken days was finished.

That picture of the Church and community coming together is a vision I never want to forget. It reminded me that a loving, serving community is what Christ desires for his church. When you are willing to come to the rescue of another and when gratitude sweeps over you because of that willingness, powerful things can happen. The truth is that when a church endures in community for over 250 years it isn't an accident or a fluke. The reason is plain to see if you had been there that Sunday after the storm. A church that loves one another in Christ and cares deeply for its community in Christian love will endure for centuries. I am reminded of these familiar words that I will leave you to ponder and be grateful.

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.*

*3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

God bless,
Doug

Being positive in a negative situation is not naïve. It's leadership.

Session Highlights

The Bethesda Session met on Sunday, May 20, 2019. Items covered at the meeting included the following:

- Received the financial report
- Received monthly committee reports
- Received nine new members and approved a transfer request for two members
- Briefly discussed Personnel Committee Responsibilities
- Briefly discussed Nominating Committee Guidelines and Procedures
- Received the Pastor's Report

Bethesda Welcomes New and Returning Members

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the nine people who were received into our church family at the Session meeting on May 20th. Their faces aren't new! We have enjoyed worshipping with them at worship services and the fellowship on TGI Wednesday night dinners and games, as well as other activities.

Those who Reaffirmed Their Faith

- Michael Clark
- Josh Stallard

Those who came by Transfer of Membership

- Christopher Blaikie from Allen Park Presbyterian Church, Allen Park, Michigan
- Robert and Debbie Fulmer from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC
- James and Lisa Percival from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC

Two members were returned to Active Membership

- Lou Anne Adkins Hildebrand
- Holly Varnadore

Bethesda to Host Presbytery Meeting

Bethesda will host Providence Presbytery's quarterly meeting on Sunday afternoon, June 10th in our Family Life Center. Approximately 150 representatives from all the churches in our presbytery will attend. **The Congregational Life Committee needs your help to provide light refreshments (finger food) for these attendees.** There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. For further information, contact Steve Childers.

Our New Channel Shares with the World

Bethesda sermons are now available on YouTube. Follow the link from the Bethesda website (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. A special thank you goes out to John Nettles for making this possible.

	<i>May Attendance</i>		<i>May Elders on Duty</i>
	Worship	Sunday School	
May 6	84	44	<i>Darius Alexander</i>
May 13	93	41	<i>Trey Amick</i>
May 20	91	42	<i>Cheryl Forlines</i>
May 27	63	41	



Where do

YOU

fit in?

Have you ever noticed that anytime there are two or more people cleaning up after a meal, each person usually chooses the same job as part of the kitchen crew? One person will wash dishes, one will grab a dish towel and start drying, while others deal with the left overs, and still others clean the tables and counters. Not long ago a man came in the kitchen after the Wednesday Night Dinner. He asked how he could help. The kitchen ladies (myself included) said, “Thanks, but we got this,” as they went about their jobs. “Are you sure? I’ll be glad to help if you just tell me what to do,” he offered again. I watched his face as he turned away with a look of disappointment and rejection. Sure, the kitchen ladies “had it,” but **he wanted to be part of it**. Do we expect others to find their own way of fitting in, or do we look for ways to include them? Do we practice **inclusion** or **exclusion**? Is it easier to just do it yourself rather than ask someone to help you in a joint effort? Sometimes in our enthusiasm to serve, we take away from others an opportunity to grow in faith, learn and find their place to fit in.

Scripture tells us in I Corinthians 12:27: You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it. This verse reminds me of a puzzle. We all fit together, all the pieces are unique and each piece has its place in the puzzle. Whether you are a border piece, a connector piece or a center piece, Christ loves and treasures you no less than any other piece. He has gifted you with skills and talents so that He may accomplish his purposes through you. Think for a moment about how Jesus treated everyone he encountered. I can think of no instance when Jesus practiced exclusion, deliberately or not. The more Christ-like we become, the more we will practice inclusion. We are all connected as members of Christ’s Church. There is one Spirit, one body, many gifts.

At Bethesda.....

- ♥ Someone was asked if she would serve as a liturgist during the worship service. She hesitated and then answered, “OK.. If you’ll tell me what I need to do.”
- ♥ An older gentleman came into the kitchen after the Wednesday Night supper and fellowship. He put his dishcloth down next to the sink. “All the tables have been cleaned. What else can I do?”
- ♥ On the visitation day after his father-in-law had passed away, the pastor called to ask, “How is your loved one doing today?” That’s not just the kindness of pastoral care. That’s intentional inclusion in the Bethesda family.
- ♥ Making phone calls to invite men to the MOC breakfast - that’s inclusion.
- ♥ In response to an invitation to be a bell chimer, one person answered, “I don’t have time to practice. But I’ll find it.”
- ♥ When someone lets a young talkative child, not her own, sit next to her in church until it’s time for Children’s Church, that’s the patience and kindness of a saint. The child knows she belongs in God’s house, surrounded by loving people.
- ♥ The large beautiful and creative bulletin board in the Sunday School building is decorated by a lady who knows her talent and has found a way to fit in.
- ♥ By asking a youth to help take up the offering, he’s learning to be a leader in Christ’s church without even realizing it. What’s important is that he’s included.

At Bethesda, where do you fit in?

- Edie Nettles



You and Me

Together

Karen Percival's timely and well expressed article in the May *Bethesda Banner* has stayed on my mind. In the article, she reminded us that we are the church when we are united in a common cause for Christ. The Church is not they and them; it is you and I. Recently we saw many volunteers, young and old, respond immediately to the need when the storm took down several of the 100-year-old oak trees in the church yard. This urgent work was the church and community united. But do we ever think of the necessary but not-so-urgent work that volunteers do in and around the church? Who pulls the weeds from the gardens; who folds the bulletins; who prepares meals and cleans up afterward, who cleans the nursery toys; who sets up for various events; who provides flowers from her own garden; who calls or sends cards or visits the sick and shut ins; who prays daily for Bethesda, the minister and the Session? Do you? Do I?

I once heard it said, "If every person in the church, young and old, would do two things in the name of Jesus Christ, the church's work would get done. Little things make for great things. Let our new motto be these ten little words: *If it is to be, it is up to me!*"

You me, me you, you me, me you working and worshiping together creates a strong everlasting bond that ties us to each other and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Dorothy Williamson

Child Development Center



A Ministry of Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Summer fun has begun at Bethesda CDC! Our summer school-age camp will kick off on Monday, June 4th. Parents of school-age children, please remember to check the front board each week to sign for field trips and to get up-to-date information. Tuition rate changes will go into effect on Monday, June 4th. If you are unsure what your rate is, please see Cindy or Dawn. Preschool classes will not be doing their regular curriculum during the summer months, but will continue to do organized activities and themes for each week.

Don't forget to mark your calendar! **VBS will be held Monday, June 11 through Thursday, June 14 from 6:15 - 8:15. Dinner will be served at 5:30.**

Thank you to the following staff for their years of service: Ms Dawn 24 years, Ms Cathy 11 years, Ms Katie 10 years, Ms Ginger 7 years, Ms Shelby 1 year, and Ms Rebecca 1 year. Happy Birthday to: Easton C, Anthony B, Lillian W, Mason J, Lane K, Payton D, and Nate M.

A big Thank You to the adults and youth who spent their Mother's Day afternoon preparing and serving a meal at **Plentiful Harvest Kitchen** at Covenant Presbyterian Church. There were 14 cooks who served and then cleaned up a BBQ chicken dinner to almost 50 people. Thank you, Sarah and Steve, for making the arrangements for this opportunity to serve others. As Mother Teresa expressed so well, "Love in action is service."

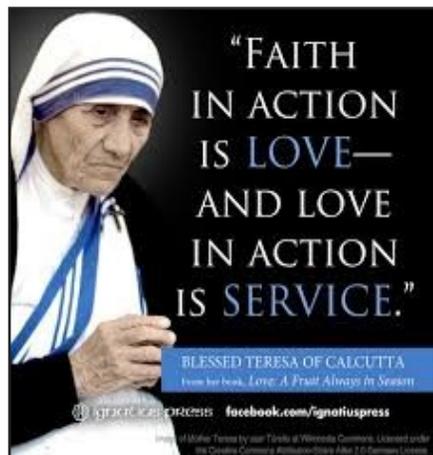
The Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive at Bethesda on June 14 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. You may go online to register for your donation or call the Red Cross to schedule an appointment. 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins are welcome. For questions, please contact Steve Childers.

The Men of the Church will meet Saturday, June 2 in the Fellowship Hall at 8 am. Please join us for a special treat. Pastor Doug will cook a gourmet breakfast!

May

A Quote to Remember

A Message to Carry



Three of Bethesda's Boy Scouts, Denny Davis, Logan Baker and Josh Adkins all had their Board of Review on May 21st and advanced to First Class. They completed a requirement for Citizenship in the Community by volunteering eight hours at Relay for Life on May 12th. On Memorial Day weekend some of the boys and leaders helped the VFW put out flags on veterans' graves at Hickory Grove Cemetery.



This summer five boys will be going to Camp Bud Schiele in June, a large Scout camp located in the foothills of western NC. The boys will be working on a combined total of six Eagle Merit Badges. Leaders Bob Niehaus, Denny Davis, and Wade Baker will attend with them.

Bethesda would like to thank all the scout leaders who give so much of their time and energy to make the scouting program at Bethesda a wonderful success. Being a scout leader means more than just showing up on Monday and Tuesday nights. It takes a commitment that few adults are willing to make, especially year after year, long after their own boys have completed the program at age 18. Bethesda is proud of our Scouting program, and God is glorified by the Christian service of all involved.

Troop 161 and Cub Pack 161, YOU fit in!



Children and Youth Ministry

June 17 - 22 Mission trip to Thornwell

July 16 - 18 Summer Retreat in the Mountains

Upcoming - Asheville Youth Mission Immersion
Week October 12 -13

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

Congratulations to the following children and youth for their **Perfect Attendance in Sunday School** for the month of May:

Carolann Bull	Elizabeth Bull	Myles Hall
Grayson Darby	Cadence Lackey	Reagan Hall
Jordan Hose		

Congratulations to Our Graduates

Congratulations to our recent graduates! As you begin a new journey, may you continue to grow in your faith, trusting God in your daily life and always seeking his will for you. "In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path." (Prov. 3:6) We are so proud of you!

The following graduates were recognized on Sunday, May 20th during the worship service.

- Carson Smith - graduated from South Pointe High
- Hart Teska - York Comprehensive High
- Tyson Medlin - York Preparatory Academy
- Tucker Adkins - York Preparatory Academy
- Bobby Faris - Clemson University
- Ashley V. Faulkenberry - Winthrop University
- Christopher Blaikie - University of South Carolina School of Law



Vacation Bible School

Monday - Thursday

June 11 - 14

6:15 - 8:15 pm Supper at 5:30

Registration forms are in the church bulletin, the CDC, and the church office. Please return them to Sarah or the church office.

Contact [Sarah](mailto:schilders@comporium.net) (803-417-0693) for more info

Rafting Ready Verse ~ When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. (Isaiah 43:2)

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 four 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. This month’s Part 4 is the final part in this series.

Part 4 TO RESPOND IN JOYFUL SERVICE

God has spoken, so we respond. All of the following are our grateful responses to hearing God speak to us. We affirm our faith, give ourselves to God and others, pray for the world, and give thanks and praise that God continues to speak.

Affirmation of Faith

The affirmation of faith is when we declare what it is we believe. We have faith as a result of God’s Word. As Paul writes, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of God.” This faith is not just our individual belief, but that of the community that nurtures faith. Thus, the affirmation may be a creed of the ancient church or a modern statement of faith that is a consensus of what the church believes. We stand as a way of saying, “This is where I stand,” and as a way of standing in continuity with the people of God of ages past, even if it means we’re martyred like some of them were.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is a prayer that thanks God for being who God is: eternal provider and self-giving lover of all. The first responsive section (“The Lord be with you... It is right to give our thanks and praise”) is from one of the church’s earliest liturgies. It is also the first part of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in the communion liturgy.

When we have communion, we go right into the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving with the same words. Here the prayer is longer, giving thanks to God for who God is, giving thanks for Christ, and asking for the Spirit’s presence so that we might commune with God at this anticipatory covenant meal of the Kingdom. As we offer ourselves, God offers God self to nourish us to go forth to care for the world. The offering and God’s self-offering in the Lord’s Supper reminds us that life in God is one great big gift exchange.

The Lord’s Prayer

This follows the Prayer of Thanksgiving because it was part of the early, early church’s communion liturgy. Even as we praise God, we pray for others, for only when we’re in communion with others can we be in communion with God. The Lord’s prayer is also one of the tradition’s closest links to Jesus Christ whose prayer helps us be in communion with God through its focus on what’s important: praising God, straining forward in anticipation of God’s will and new order that ultimately rules the earth, asking for the bread of heaven to sustain us, asking for forgiveness, recognizing the need to forgive others, praying for deliverance from the things that destroy true life, and acknowledging that God is God forever. It’s a great prayer to really pray, not just recite, at any time. Sometimes the Lord’s Prayer comes at the end of the prayer of intercession.

Offering

This is the time when we give ourselves, all that we are, and all that we have, to God’s service. As a symbol of power and of what is value to us, we make an offering of money to help others and promote the gospel. During the time of musical reflection (known as the offertory), we are also encouraged to think about ways we can give of ourselves in what we do everyday to help out with God’s project of healing the world. The choir may sing during this time as their offering to God and to help us offer ourselves to God’s ways in the world. Or they just may flat-out praise God since offering all we are in service to God is an offering of thanksgiving in response to all God does for us in Christ.

Doxology/Song of Praise

As we offer our gifts for God’s service, we praise God for letting us have use of all the resources the Lord has provided for us, and we praise God for the opportunity to serve on God’s behalf. The Doxology is an ancient chorus of praise with a vision of joining all the created beings of all times and places who forever sing praise to God. (Imagine joining the grand chorus of praise ringing through all of creation.)



Do You Have a for Missions?

When asked, “Why do you go back to Guatemala time and time again?” one mission team member answered, “I go back to continue building the relationships with the La Mision team. It’s like going home to visit family. I also go back to show the Guatemalan people we serve while there. They have so little but they show us what it means to be content with what we have.”

More than a heart for missions is needed to travel over 3,000 miles to another country and set up medical and dental clinics, set up water filters in homes, and work with the school children. It takes faith and yes, money. We could just send the money we spend on airline tickets, lodging, and food, but we would miss the blessings God has for us and for the people we serve and serve with.

On May 19th, the 3rd annual Don Rowland Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction was held. **Many thanks to all** the dedicated people who worked to make it a huge success. \$3100 was raised that will go toward the 2019 trip to Guatemala and our Thornwell trip this month.

If you have a heart for missions and want to experience the blessings of serving others in Guatemala, then prayerfully consider joining the Bethesda Team next summer. Applications will be accepted starting in September. Have questions? Please speak to Steve or Sarah Childers. They would love to explain how it all works and how YOU can fit in!

The **PW Birthday Celebration** will be held on June 3 at 4:00 pm. There will be a short business meeting followed by the presentation of the birthday objectives for 2018. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women asks that you open your hearts to the projects chosen for the 2018 Birthday Offering:

- Cottage Village, a tiny house community for low income
- Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health in Honduras
- The Dwelling Place established in 1998 to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from an abusive partner



Although the ladies’ circles will not meet during the months of June, July, and August, the **PW Annual Meeting and Salad Supper** will be August 19th at 5:00 pm. Bring your favorite salad. All women are invited It’s an opportunity to fit in!

Remember in Prayer

At Bethesda

Geraldine Blackmon
Bill Dover
Michelle Melton
Steve Rawdon
Bobby Kaye Hagler
Patsy Walker
Robert Messer
Ainsley Darby
Sonny Moore
Don Faris
Ina Oates
Ethan Hose
Family of Martha Costner
The Blaikie family

Family of Pat Williamson
Our Session
Our Pastor

Homebound

Amelia Simmers
Robert Jones

In the Community and Beyond

Larry Rockholt
Christine Roberts
Dorothy Hazard
Beverly Sledge
Chris Brackett

Reed Wagner
Elsa Carabello
Eva Bailey
Walt Bratton
Bob Dickson
A P and Net Plexico
Randy and Virginia Medley
Roy Caveny
Caleb Dickson
Betty Carroll
Donnie Greene
Jim & Hildegard Bell’s
granddaughter
Randy McInvale
John Brandt

Family of Bobby Griggs
Family of Eula Anthony (Bert’s
mother-in-law)
New Mother’s Cottage at Thornwell

Our Global Mission Partners

Matias Family
Palacios Family
Driggers Family

Note: Cub Scouts do not meet in the summer. Boy Scouts meet only on the 4th and 25th in June. They meet every Monday in July and August. Choir does not meet during summer months.			June		Committee Meetings CE June 6 7:30 pm No other committees have meetings scheduled	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 MOC Breakfast 8:00 FH Chef: Doug
3 PW Birthday Celebration 4:00 pm FH	4 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	5 Prayer Shawl 6:30 LP	6 Blood Drive 9 am - 1 pm FH	7	8	8 9 am VBS Setup FLC stage 9 am Presbytery mtg. Setup FLC
10 Host Presbytery Meeting 2:30 - 5:30 FLC	11 VBS Setup 9 am Sanctuary VBS 6:15 - 8:15 Dinner at 5:30	12 VBS 6:15 - 8:15 Dinner at 5:30	13 VBS 6:15 - 8:15 Dinner at 5:30	14 VBS 6:15 - 8:15 Dinner at 5:30 VBS Cleanup 8:15	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Session Meeting 7:00 PATH Collection	25 Boy Scouts FH 7:00	26	27	28	29	30



- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2 Sonny Moore | 14 Rowdy Jordan | 25 Laura Smith |
| 6 Todd Hagler | 17 Linda Messer | 27 Tyson Medlin |
| 7 Ralph Adams | 17 Marlien Russell | 28 Wes Hibbard |
| 7 Gail Boyd | 21 Pam Jordan | 28 Tony McKinney |
| 8 Chuck Barton | 23 Quinton Cole | 29 David Bailey |
| 12 Debbie Darby | 23 Lynsey Peterson | 29 Beth Smith |
| 12 Amelia Simmers | 24 Jim Carter, Jr | 30 Leah Rowland |

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

*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



Happy Father's Day!

June 17

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