



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC |September 2023

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Bethesda family,

Over the last four weeks, due to the loss of our air conditioning within the sanctuary, we have had to worship in the fellowship hall. We have moved from our regular pews to not so comfortable metal chairs. We have traded the organ for an out of tune piano—though Earlene makes it work. And, we have made a plastic table into a holy one. It is certainly not an ideal situation but it has given us time to reflect on what it means to be the Church.

It is not a set place. It is not a collection of special furniture. It is not where we work out our religious routines. The Church is the gathering of God’s people. The Church is everywhere—where people call upon the name of Jesus. The Church is you and me—following Jesus Christ.

When we make our way back to our normal worshipping space, my prayer is that the Lord will have used this time to open our hearts and prepare us not only to be the Church in the sanctuary and fellowship hall on Sunday but everywhere Christ may lead us.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. David Priddy

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# September Birthdays

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### foodbank

OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Through special backpacks filled with nutritious food, the Food Bank's Weekend Power Pack Program supports nutritional needs of children who are facing hunger over the weekends. Common foods in a Weekend Power Pack include proteins, fruits, breakfast items, snacks, and beverages.

The backpacks are assembled by volunteers and delivered to a school partner each week. Teachers and schools have reported improvements in test scores, positive behavioral gains, decrease in number of unexcused absences and an increased recognition of potential career paths.

The Food Bank at Sandhills operates Back Pack Pals, a program similar to Weekend Power Packs. After being initiated by the Moore County School District, they kept the name when it operationally moved over to the Food Bank's distribution center for packing and delivery services. They are very thankful to the Sandhills community for ensuring the sustainability of this important program in Moore County.

To volunteer go to [Volunteer - Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina \(foodbankcenc.org\)](http://Volunteer - Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (foodbankcenc.org)) choose the Sandhills Branch and register for a volunteer opportunity.



- |    |                                 |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1  | Hunter MacIntyre                |
| 3  | Lisa Noyes<br>Katie Formanski   |
| 4  | Teddi Garren<br>J.R. Southers   |
| 5  | Kristy Ransdell                 |
| 7  | Robert Maloubier                |
| 8  | Sarah Clarke                    |
| 10 | Broadus Combs<br>Jackson Hill   |
| 12 | Mikey Bean                      |
| 15 | Connor Morgan                   |
| 15 | Skylar Cunningham               |
| 17 | Alicia Oakes<br>Candace Brock   |
| 20 | Jane Sandrock                   |
| 23 | Claire Arnold                   |
| 27 | Karen Robertson<br>Bailey Byers |
| 28 | JJ Southers                     |
| 29 | Pat McClain                     |



# Celebrations & Concerns

We had our church picnic Saturday August 19 at Aberdeen Lake Park. We had about 60 people from Page Memorial and Bethesda in attendance. Thanks to everyone who came, provided food, and volunteered!



Four women from Bethesda recently completed a triathlon!

Congratulations to Kelly Clark, Brittany Driggers, Alyssa Ferguson, and Mary Katherine White on your accomplishments!



*100th Anniversary of the first  
Homecoming*

**at Old Bethesda**

**Guest Preacher: Jim Campbell  
former Scottish intern**

Join us for our annual Homecoming celebration at Old Bethesda Church.  
Worship service begins at 11:15 am.  
Join us for food and fellowship on the picnic grounds following the service.

**SUNDAY ● SEPTEMBER 24**

# Looking Ahead

## September 2023 Calendar

September 3 Birthday Endowment Sunday

September 4 Labor Day - Church office closed

September 13 Sonshine Club will meet for lunch

September 17 Rally Day

New Sunday School year begins,  
Sunday School teachers are commissioned,  
Children graduate from Children's Church

September 22

Soup Supper & Fellowship with Jim Campbell 6 pm

September 23 Golf outing at 7 Lakes

September 24

100th anniversary of the first Homecoming at  
Old Bethesda.

Worship at 11 am.

Potluck picnic lunch to follow.

**Sandhills Family Promise** – A big thank you to our Bethesda volunteers who helped with our Family Promise Week: Overnight hosts: Brenda Huffman, Judy Hefner, Terri Combs, LoJuanna Pages and our Meal Preparers: Jim Donathan, Doreen Wicker, Nancy High, Joyce Robinson, Kay Mack, Nancy Dearborn, Tammy Clarke, Kim Clark, Laura Byers and Pam Dunlap. Bethesda's next week to serve at Family Promise will be October 30 through November 2. Contact LoJuanna Pages or the church office for information.





# Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD  
*Growing in Faith Together*

A full breakfast will be served starting at 9:15 am, **Sunday, September 17th** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we begin a new Sunday School year. The following classes are available; anyone may join. If you would like to have another class offered or feel the call to teach a class, please contact the church office.

**The Jesse Wimberly Class** This is an adult class led by Cy Israel. They utilize *The Present Word* curriculum series to facilitate instruction and discussion. They meet in the upstairs Jesse Wimberly (Board) Room.

**The Seekers Class** This is an adult class led by Kay Mack. They are currently studying the Gospel of John. Through the eyes of John, we see what the disciples saw: the miracles Jesus performed and the way He responded to the needs of others with love and grace. This class meets in the Seekers Room downstairs.

**Young Adult Class** Led by Pastor David, this class studies different books of the Bible and theological books to gain a deeper understanding of the Word and how it applies to world today. This class meets in the Parlor.

**Sr. High Class** (9th-12th grade) meets upstairs in the Youth Room with Henry Hogan leading the lesson. This class utilizes bible studies, videos, and other elements to foster education and discussion. They enjoy studying different books of the Bible, comparing and contrasting stories and characters.

**Jr. High Class** (6th-8th grade) Led by David Keith, the middle schoolers use *Feasting on the Word* curriculum as they dive deeper into the Bible to expand their knowledge and faith. This class meets in the downstairs classroom.

**Upper Elementary Class** (1st -5th grade) Led by Teddi Garren and Nancy Dearborn this class focuses on lectionary based lessons while keeping children engaged through crafts, games, and fun. This class meets in the blue room.

**Lower Elementary Class** (3yrs- Kindergarten) This class, taught by a rotation of young adult women, uses the *Hands On* curriculum and a variety of tools to teach foundational Bible knowledge to young children. They enjoy hands-on activities, crafts, games, and imaginative play to learn and reinforce lessons. They meet in the yellow room.

**Nursery (0-2 years)** - Our youngest learners enjoy time in the nursery with Rebecca Dunn and Katie Formanski reading books, singing songs, and learning through play and exploration.

# Music Notes

Summer is almost over and I am delighted to know that the choir will be back soon. This church has a wealth of talent and I hope that each of you will search your hearts to find ways you can share your talent(s). We would love for you to join the choir or the handbell choir. Just let me know. Also, if you play a musical instrument and would be willing to share, we would like to see about scheduling a Sunday for you to play.

As we move into fall, Alyssa Ferguson will share Gaither's "There's Just Something About That Name" on September 3 and Ashtyn Adams will play the violin on September 10. The choir will be back on September 17 and don't forget Homecoming on the 24th. As you can see the tempo picks up immediately and I look forward to a busy fall.

Blessings, Earlene

## Youth

BYG is excited to start back after Labor Day. September 10th will be parent night. We encourage all parents and kids ages 6th to 12th grades to attend. We are looking for volunteers to provide meals & lead the devotions at our Sunday evening meetings. If you would like to help in either of these ways, or if you have any questions, please contact Ashtyn at (910)986-4002 or [ashtyn.dca@gmail.com](mailto:ashtyn.dca@gmail.com)

The latest Henster Sunday School Adventure happened in August. They played Yahtzee Friday night and watched a movie Saturday night (Henry may have dozed during this). Saturday they rode the ferry over to the aquarium at Ft. Fisher and had a good time. They took the long way home and after dinner went to the lighthouse. Sunday morning after waking up, they had a lesson about Matthew 5: 14-16: Light Shining!! Everyone made a candle and discussed how they shine their lights. Think of a lighthouse. The next adventure will be Oct 21 - Creatures of the Night.





# Presbyterian Women

Circles start up again in September. Ladies, if you are looking to join a circle, here are the details. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

## **Friendship Circle**

Leader - Carolyn Burns

Phone 910-315-5914

Meets the 1st Monday of every month

\*September they will meet the 2nd Monday

Meeting time is 10 am in the classroom across from the ladies parlor

## **Martha's circle**

Moderator - Nancy High

Phone 919-749-0706

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month starting in September 6 pm  
in the ladies parlor

## **Young Women' Circle**

Moderator - Mary Katherine White

336-978-5779

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm in the ladies parlor

## **Circle #4**

Leader - Linda Parke

910-603-7214

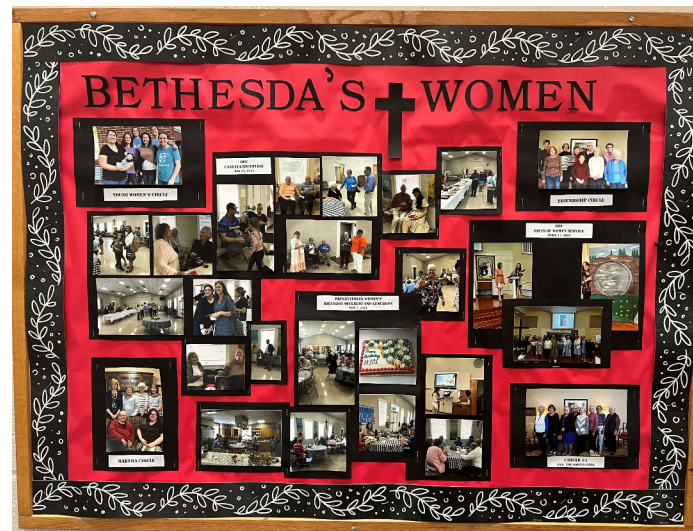
Meets 1st Tuesday of each month in the ladies parlor at 10 am  
Group studies a bible study

Save the date of Oct 28th for a Samaritans Purse  
sewing project from 10-3 in the Fellowship Hall.

No sewing skills required.

Sincerely,

Leslie Champion





# Opportunities & Initiatives



## FILL THE FREEZER

Help us keep our freezer full with food immediately available for families with new babies, people with illness or recovering from surgery, bereaved families, or others in need.

### What To Make:

- Soups
- Casseroles
- Breakfast Foods
- Other items that can be kept frozen

### Put in a disposable container.

### Label with:

- Name of item
- Date made
- Ingredient List

Place in freezer outside church kitchen

For recipes or suggested items, contact the church office



Our Fill the Freezer Initiative has been going very well. We have had a greater need for food from the community lately and the freezer could use a restock. Please consider making and bringing a meal soon.

If you have a friend or family member in need of a meal, please utilize this ministry. You may come during office hours and pick up something to take to someone in need.

Call the church office for more information.

**Job opportunity:** St. John Paul School is looking for after school care leaders. Pay is \$15/hour. A background check and interview will be required. Call (910) 692-6241 for more information.

**Bethesda Food Pantry:** if you are interested in helping with an initiative to help address food insecurity in our county through a coordinated Bethesda food pantry, please email or call the church office. If we have enough interest and support, a meeting will be forthcoming.

## Recreation & Fellowship

We will have a soup supper and time for fellowship (and maybe some music) Friday, September 22 at 6 pm with Jim Campbell, our former Scottish Intern. Hope to see you there!

The next opportunity to play golf will be September 23 in Seven Lakes. More details to follow. If you'd like to join in the fun, call or email the church office.

# Evangelism Update

In John 15:11 we read these words from Jesus, *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."*

As believers in Christ, we have that same joy in us. It comes from knowing that Jesus is the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah. He was with God from the beginning and He was God.

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He may give it to you"* (John 15:16).

Nehemiah 8:10, *"the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

John 20:21, *"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"*

Jesus, the Son of God, died for us and He rose from the dead for us. He is alive and His Spirit lives in us. His joy lives in us! He is sending us to go and tell the good news with joy and with love. His Spirit will guide us when we ask in His name.

The Evangelism Committee

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES

### Sunday, September 3

First Reading Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26  
Second Reading Romans 12:9-21  
Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

### Sunday, September 10

First Reading Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149  
Second Reading Romans 13:8-14  
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

### Sunday, September 17

First Reading Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114  
Second Reading Romans 14:1-12  
Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

### Sunday, September 24

First Reading Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30  
Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

## Local History

### Flora Isabella Blue Pleasants -

Flora Isabella Blue, at the impressionable age of ten years old, watched from her bedroom window as Union soldiers invaded her home at the Malcolm Blue Farm. Belle Blue, as she was known to everyone, was a member of Bethesda Church, born April 24, 1855, to Malcolm McMillan and Flora Ray Blue. Belle developed her talent as a historian in the community at Peace College in Raleigh. She was instrumental in starting the annual Bethesda Homecoming at Old Bethesda. Belle is mentioned in three historical books, *The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads*, *The History of Aberdeen*, and *The Scottish Blue Family in North America*. Belle passed away July 14, 1946 at the age of 91; she is buried at Old Bethesda.

Submitted by Shaw Ray, Local Historian



<https://bethesdapres.church>

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[bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com)

#### Sunday Schedule

9:15 Light fellowship breakfast

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 Worship Service

5:00 pm Youth Group

