



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | October 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sister at Bethesda Presbyterian,

This last month marks a year since I have been at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. My family feels blessed to be here, and I have enjoyed being your pastor.

What is Bethesda like from a pastor’s perspective? I want to offer a brief reflection about a few things that stand out to me about Bethesda since I arrived.

The first thing is the sheer amount of *energy for service at Bethesda*. I have never seen so many people eager to volunteer. It is heartening to me because it feels like I am a minister among ministers, each with our different gifts, serving one another and the Lord.

The second thing is *the love for Scripture*. As soon as I finish a Bible study someone is already asking about the next one. And I know several folks in the congregation who are reading through the whole Bible. Regularly, I receive emails and visits into the office by people who simply want to discuss Scripture. In many ways, I feel as if the congregation takes seriously the Apostle Paul’s admonition: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16).

Lastly, I sense a *deep compassion for people*. Since I have been here, I have noticed that the members of Bethesda seem to carry other people with them, so to speak. They hold other people in their hearts, prayers, and thoughts. Moreover, there is a serious amount of generosity to fellow members of the surrounding community.

Now, no Church is perfect! But, a Church that is energetic to serve, Bible-loving, and compassion is certainly one in which we can be confident that the Spirit of God is moving—and I want you to know that I am glad to be a part of that.

With affection,
Rev. David Priddy

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October Birthdays

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Adult Literacy Tutor

You can become a volunteer tutor and teach an adult the joy of reading. All you need is a little time. Time: Average 2.5 - 3.0 hours per week (includes preparation and travel time). Commitment: on-going with the intent to build a relationship with the student. Training: Tutors of adult students are required to complete at the Read Moore Center 1 hour of MCLC orientation plus 12 hours of ProLiteracy training. Training is offered after orientation in accordance to your schedule.

One-on-One Youth Mentoring or Tutoring: In-School

Our In-School Mentoring Program is currently being offered to students at Southern Middle School and Southern Primary in Aberdeen, North Carolina. We have also expanded to Crain's Creek Middle School and West Pine Middle. This program is funded through United Way of Moore County and donors from the Moore County community. Our mentoring coordinator pairs each student with a community volunteer to meet one-on-one for one hour a week. The volunteers go through orientation, training, and an extensive background check.

One-on-One Youth Mentoring: Community

Our Community Mentoring Program is dedicated to the youth in Moore County who are at risk of not reaching their full potential due to a variety of factors. Youth who are in need of a positive adult role model, close monitoring of school, home and community behavior, as well as opportunities to learn social, recreational, vocational, and educational skills can benefit from our program.

For more information visit: [Volunteer — The C.A.R.E. Group, Inc. \(thecaregroupinc.org\)](http://thecaregroupinc.org)



The Home Dedication for the Easterling Family will be Tuesday, October 17th, at 6 pm. 200 Hatley Street, Aberdeen. This is the Apostles Build house many of our members worked on. Everyone is invited to attend the dedication.

2	Emily DeSpain
	Andy Robertson
4	Brandon Wilson
	David Byers
6	Madeline McClain
7	Vickie Auman
9	Marge Downey
	Brian Ferguson
10	Dot Templin
16	Kathleen White
18	Hunter Robertson
	Brooklyn Bean
	Kelly Jacobs
20	Wesley Robertson
22	Doris Moon
	Kathe Wilson
	Ann Woodfield
	Nancy High
	Sam Formanski
26	Jim Ransdell
27	Terri Combs
29	Betty Lou Stewart
	Jane McInnis
30	Bill Parke
31	Marsha Southers

Celebrations & Concerns



Prayers and sympathy for the Woodfield family upon the passing of Don Woodfield, September 3. Don's funeral was held September 23.

Continued prayers for the Auman family upon the passing of Watts Auman. A memorial service, conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Natasha Blackwood, was held September 30, at West End Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations to Jackson Hill upon the completion of his Eagle Scout Project. Jackson designed and built some much-needed updated cabinets for our Heritage Room.



Bethesda Events



The Sonshine Club met at The House of Fish for lunch in September.

We had a wonderful turn-out and Danny provided us with a delicious meal. It was so good, we may just go back!

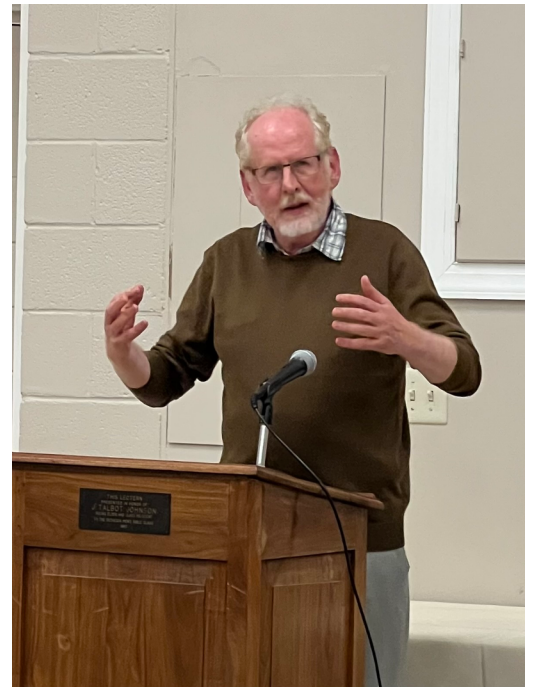
Stay tuned for details on the next outing.



Rally Day/Genesis Sunday 2023 was a lot of fun and a great kick-off to the new Sunday School Year!

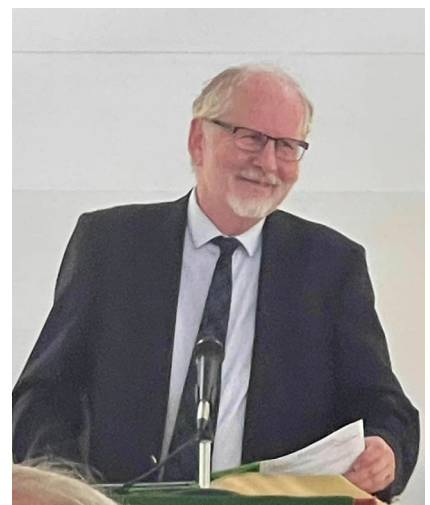


Our Homecoming weekend Soup Supper event was well-attended. Rev. Jim Campbell regaled us with stories from his time spent as an Intern at Bethesda 30 years ago as well as some anecdotes from preaching in Scotland.



100th Anniversary of the First Bethesda Homecoming

Photo Credits: Laura Hill



Music Notes

Fall is here and I am so happy to have the choir back in the loft. They do an excellent job, and you, the congregation, sing with much more confidence when they lead. October will be a busy month. We have two baptism Sundays, our stewardship campaign, and lastly, both Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday. Hopefully our music, both congregational and choir, will help reflect these services. We are starting our Christmas music, so remember that we would love to have you join us. Homecoming went well and you are always impressive with your acapella singing. As we start this very busy season, take care of yourselves and I will see you in church.

Blessings,

Earlene

This upcoming Sunday School year, we are combining the high school and middle school. The past few years, we have been studying books from the Old Testament. This year we are jumping to the New Testament, to read and study the book of Luke. We are going to learn from the disciple who investigated from the beginning and provides an orderly account for Theophilus and now us. What will these young minds learn?

The next Henster Adventure is Oct 21 "Creatures of the Night". They will have an howling good time. Make sure youth sign up; limited to 10 people.

- Henry Hogan

Hi BYG families!

It was great to see many of you at Homecoming. We will be back on our regular schedule this Sunday with youth group from 5:00-7:00. We have been asked to help clean out the food pantry, so we will work on that & maybe watch an episode of The Chosen if we have time. Lindsey Prince will be joining us & providing our dinner. Her parents were active in the church when I was younger, so she is looking for ways to get involved.

Have a great week!

Ashtyn

Youth

**TRUNK OR TREAT
AT OLD BETHESDA**
1020 BETHESDA RD, ABERDEEN



SATURDAY OCT 28
4-6 PM
JOIN US FOR TREATS, HOTDOGS, AND S'MORES
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WILL PROVIDE A
TRUNK!
910.944.1319

Save the Date for:

Our annual Thank Offering Luncheon
November 12 after Worship

Presbyterian Women

Shoebox Sewing Project



October 28 9 am - 12 pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we work together to create gifts to add to shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We will be making sling bags and pillowcases.

No sewing experience required!

Lunch will be served; call and let the office know that you will attend.

910-944-1319

The workshop will be lead by Marilyn Sherwin and hosted by the Bethesda Presbyterian Women.



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.



Sandhills Family Promise – Bethesda Presbyterian Church is scheduled to volunteer with Family Promise (our local shelter for women and children who are homeless) October 30th through November 2.

We are asked to prepare an evening meal (which can be dropped off or you can stay, eat and visit with the families) and to provide an overnight host/hostess each night.

(Since this is a home for women and children, the host/hostess can be one or two people with at least one woman. The volunteer room has two twin beds.)

If you have any questions, contact LoJuana Pages 910-638-1866 Lbluepages@gmail.com

We are always looking for new volunteers!

Evangelism Update

In **1 Timothy 2:1-4** Paul describes Gospel-shaped living.

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be given for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

God desires for all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. We, the Church of Jesus Christ, have opportunities to tell, show, and even sing the Gospel message of truth to those we encounter in our day-to-day lives. The Presbyterian Women Horizon study for 2023-24 is called ***Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts***, written by Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir. She asks the question: **What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformational love of Jesus Christ?**

God wants each of us to make ourselves available to His purpose when He calls us. This means that when we first meet someone, we should be interested in them and listen to them. What is their story? Does God have a purpose in this meeting? Sometimes we may be fearful of speaking to a stranger because they may be someone that is not supported by their communities due to rejection, confusion, and fear. Rev. Dr. Mohabir “challenges us to trust that nothing has the power to exclude anyone from the saving grace of Jesus.” We have the opportunity in our encounters to show the love of Christ and the Holy Spirit will guide us. God is asking us to be available to whomever He brings our way so that He can do wondrous things through us.

A final quote from Rev. Dr. Mahabir, **“Your face can be the visible image of Jesus to others.”**

The Evangelism Committee

LECTIONARY PASSAGES

Sunday, October 1

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4,12-16
Second Reading Phillipians 2:1-13
Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday, October 15

First Reading Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Second Reading Phillipians 4:1-9
Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 29

First Reading Deutoronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

Sunday, October 8

First Reading Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Second Reading Phillipians 3:4b-14
Gospel Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 22

First Reading Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

Local History

Christian Ann Shaw Phillips -

Christian Ann Shaw Phillips (Crissie), was born September 11, 1863, during the height of the American Civil War. Her father, Peter Cornelius Shaw, was a teacher. He sent Crissie to Staunton, VA as a young lady to finish her education. She returned to NC where she and her family were members of Philadelphus Presbyterian Church in Robeson County. Crissie married John Worthy Phillips on November 16, 1892. They moved to Moore County and opened a millinery shop in Carthage. She was a member of Manly Presbyterian Church until her death on May 9, 1919 at age 55 from tuberculosis. She is buried at Old Bethesda Cemetery.

Submitted by Shaw Ray, Local Historian



<https://bethesdapres.church>

[Facebook.com/bethesdapres](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdapres)

910-944-1319

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

