



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | November 2023

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends

On October 15, I preached a sermon entitled “Rejoice, again, I say Rejoice,” citing the Apostle Paul’s admonition in Philippians. This was the lectionary text that week, and it seemed providential because at the same time I had a clear sense for nearly a month that I should be praying for “spiritual joy” at Bethesda. After the sermon, several of you reached out to me and wanted to talk about the message. I usually don’t give out that many copies of a sermon. And, truth be told, I didn’t think it was a good one. The point is, the need for real joy also seemed to be pressing on the hearts and minds of many of the members here at Bethesda.

Now, Presbyterians don’t usually talk about being prophetic—unless it relates to activism, social justice, or the Old Testament. However, it seems to me that the pressure and resonance the community is feeling around Paul’s call to “rejoice” might very well be a prophetic word to us. In other words, we have had not just a lesson or teaching on joy but an *in-sight* into what God has to say to us today.

Of course, it is an odd time for the Church to receive a call to rejoice. When one looks at the world and hears of war and rumors of war, not to mention our many domestic problems, it feels insensitive to seek joy. Perhaps we should weep. Perhaps we should feel righteous indignation, and maybe we do allow ourselves to weep and be justly angry in times like these.

I want to encourage you, however, to be open to praying for “spiritual joy” for yourself, Bethesda, and others. After all, there are times and a time may yet come when it is very difficult to find the false consolations of the world meaningful, and, in those times, we need to know existentially and be prepared fully to share the joyful good news of Jesus Christ.

Affectionately and joyfully yours,  
Rev. David Priddy

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# November Birthdays

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Adopt-a-Family



Last year the Assistance Team collected contributions for both Southern Middle and Crains Creek Middle Schools for their

#### Child-In-Need Christmas Fund

from those at Bethesda who wanted to participate. The program was enormously successful. Our church was able to donate \$2,350 to each school, enabling the schools' staffs to take underprivileged families/students holiday shopping. This year, the Assistance Team will again collect contributions for both of these schools to help students and their families who need support during the holiday season. Donations for this fund can be dropped off at the church office. Please make checks payable to the **Bethesda Assistance Fund** and designate "Christmas Fund" on the check. All donations should be received by no later than December 1, 2023.

For additional information, please email Nancy Dearborn at [catnandew@gmail.com](mailto:catnandew@gmail.com) or Ann Frank at [rann@nc.rr.com](mailto:rann@nc.rr.com)

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 2  | Nate Forbis                   |
| 3  | Henry Hogan<br>Mike Laswell   |
| 5  | Palmer Noyes                  |
| 6  | Joyce McInnis                 |
| 9  | Connor Ferguson               |
| 12 | Andy White                    |
| 16 | Lee Miller                    |
| 21 | Nate Ardinger                 |
| 22 | Cathy Carpenter               |
| 24 | Kay Mack                      |
| 25 | Andy Auman<br>Richard McInnis |
| 26 | Chrissy Excell                |
| 27 | Mason Roth                    |
| 29 | Debbie Pace                   |
| 30 | Betsy Mofield                 |



# Celebrations & Concerns

Bethesda was blessed to have three infant baptisms in the month of October!

James Henry Driggers was baptized and welcomed to our church family October 8 (left). His parents are Brittany and Travis Driggers; big sisters are Nora and Mia.

On October 22, Ezra and Leo Moon were baptized and welcomed to the church family (right). Their parents are Carrie and Mark Moon and big sister is Ava Grace. Grandparents are Dene and Alan Moon; Great-Grandmother is Doris Moon.



Some of Henry Hogan's Sunday School Class had a Howling Good time at the Zoo for their Henster Adventure - *Creatures of the Night*. Read all about it in the Youth Section, or better yet, ask one of these great kids to tell you about it!





# Bethesda Events

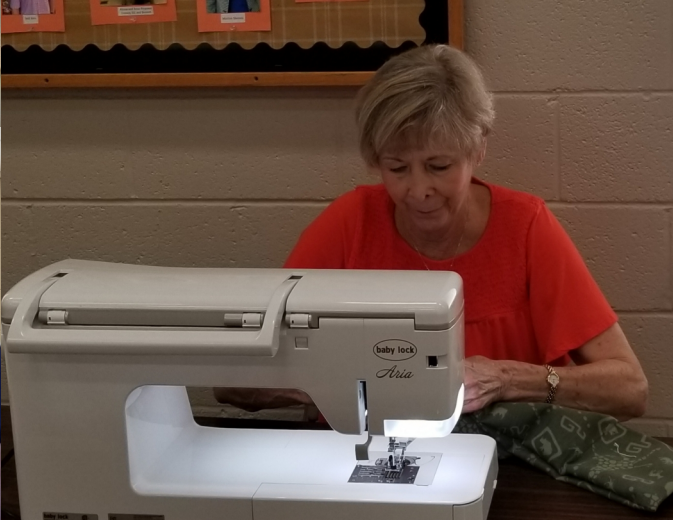




On October 28, Bethesda's Presbyterian Women, lead by Marilyn Sherwin, hosted a sewing workshop to make and provide pillowcases and bags to include in Operation Christmas Child boxes. Return your boxes ASAP; by Nov 12 at the latest.

# Bethesda Events

Photo Credits: Sherry Wright





# Bethesda Events

On October 29, The Stewardship Committee hosted a Time and Talents Fair after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all the committees who provided booths, the planners & workers who provided lunch, and everyone who attended. Time and Talent Sheets will be distributed soon.

Photo Credits: Kelly Jacobs



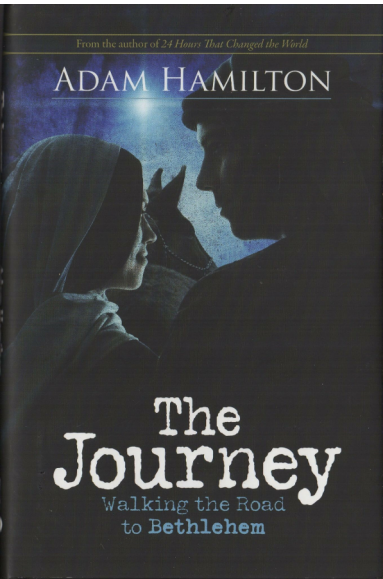


# Looking Ahead

Pastor David and family will be on vacation out of the country from **November 1-15**. Call the church office for assistance with any matters. The Elder on Call is Travis Driggers.

**November 5** Guest preacher, Rev. Misty Mowrey. Family Fun Night 4:30 pm

## The Journey by Adam Hamilton, Advent Study led by Betty Pope



It's a story you know by heart. Still, The Journey combines historical information and archaeology with Adam Hamilton's thoughtful, conversational teaching style to give you a new perspective on the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Hamilton shares new insights into a world-changing event. This is a small-group study.

This five-session DVD was filmed on location in the Holy Land and is an essential companion resource to the church program. Author Adam Hamilton retraces the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. This study group will meet on **November 9, 16, 30 and December 7 and 14 from 11am-1230pm** in the Jesse Wimberly Room off the Fellowship Hall.

Sessions include: 1. Mary of Nazareth 2. Joseph of Bethlehem 3. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth 4. From Nazareth to Bethlehem 5. The Manger

**November 10** Church office closed in observance of Veterans' Day.

**November 12** Guest preacher, Rev. Bob Whitehouse. Bethesda Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering Luncheon after worship service. Soup and sandwich lunch with a bake sale and photo booth. All donations go to the PW Thank Offering.

**November 17** Faith Weaving Friends Jr Youth Group meets at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for kids 3-5thGrade.

**November 19** Consecration Sunday and a Congregational Meeting at the conclusion of the 11 o'clock worship service to elect two members to the Nominating Committee.

**Thanksgiving Community Worship Service**, 5 pm at Bethesda.

**November 23-24** The Church Office Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Thanksgiving Community Meal on Thanksgiving Day** 11:30-2 pm.

**November 26** Ordination of Tommy Miller during the 11 o'clock worship service.

**November 27** Blood Drive 10 am-2:30 pm

**December 2** Help Wanted to set up Christmas Trees

**December 3** 4:30 pm Special Worship Service – Hanging of the Greens and Moravian Love Feast - please let the church office know if you will attend.

# Music Notes

Well, the race is on. There is so much happening at Bethesda and so much to come. Don't forget November 19 will be our Thanksgiving Service and there will be a Community Service at 5 pm in our Sanctuary. November 26 we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday and Tommy Miller's Ordination. December 3 brings the season of Advent. We will welcome the Merry Hearts Preschool at the morning service and then we will have a Hanging of the Greens Service with a Moravian Love Feast at 4:30 pm. Cathy Carpenter has graciously agreed to play the harp during this service, and we will welcome all participants from the "Family Fun Night." December 17 will bring Moore Brass and on December 24 at 11:00 am we will worship with Lessons and Carols. More will come about our December services next month.

Many thanks to all who have shared their musical talents in the last few weeks including Ashtyn Adams, Kim Clark, Mikaela Priddy, and Alyssa Ferguson. These extra offerings really enhance our worship and help us meet a variety of musical preferences. Please make a special effort to thank them yourself.

Finally, I want to ask each of you to please remain in a reverent and worshipful manner until the end of the Choral Benediction. This gives the acolytes and the minister time to reach the back of the sanctuary and frankly it is quite disturbing to try to compete with talking, etc. during the choral benediction. Your choir works hard, and I would appreciate your help in letting them know that you do appreciate their time, talent and dedication. Also, there are those among us that use that time to say a final prayer. Thank you.

Blessings,

Earlene

## Youth

I can't believe this semester is already halfway over & we are so close to the Holidays! Thank you to everyone who has signed up to provide our dinners. We have every Sunday covered from now through the holiday season.

BYG has spent time during our last few Sunday meetings cleaning out & organizing the food pantry. We plan to continue working to keep it organized & have a few bags ready for when someone in the community comes with a need.

We will not have youth group on November 26th due to it being Thanksgiving weekend. As we start this new month, the youth are so thankful for our Bethesda family.

Ashtyn (910) 986-4002

Are you guessing what the Henster Adventure: Creatures of the Night was. The Sunday School class did not know where or what they were doing. After giving them clues for a few weeks. We headed out on Saturday Oct 21 to the zoo for a scavenger hunt during the daylight hours. They got to have their very own Halloween dinner inside the zoo with Zombie burgers, Frankenstein fingers, and other ghoulish items, and even s'mores. When the twilight hour arrived they were lead out into the darkness of the zoo where they heard the red wolves howl and learned about them as well as the elk and buffalo. They even got to meet one of the zoo keepers from the TV show, who took them out for the howling. All had a Howling time (you should have heard them howling) and I do believe the adults had a good time too. Henry



# Presbyterian Women

## 2023 Thank Offering OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

*And be thankful.* —Colossians 3:14–15



**Bethesda Presbyterian Women and Fellowship**  
will sponsor a  
**Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**  
November 12 after worship service

- Bake Sale (all proceeds to the Thank Offering)
- Photo Shoot to update the church directory and for personal use (donations to Thank Offering )
- Collection basket for Thank Offering on each table

# 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.



Join us for our annual  
**Community Thanksgiving Day Meal**  
November 23  
11:30 am - 2 pm  
Drive Thru  
& Sit Down Service  
Available

In Our Fellowship Hall  
1002 N Sandhills Blvd  
Aberdeen  
*"The church with the lake out front"*



Sign up to help with our Community Thanksgiving Day Meal by going to:

[Bethesda Presbyterian Church: Thanksgiving Day Volunteer Sign-Up Bethesda Church 2023 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)



We are in the midst of Stewardship Season at Bethesda. This is the time of year that we take stock of ourselves, and how we can recommit our time, treasures, and talents to serve God and take part in the work of the Church. Weekly bible lessons are being distributed. We had our Time and Talents Fair on October 29 that hopefully gave everyone a better idea of what the committees at church do and perhaps inspire some to become more involved. Look for your Time and Talent sheets and prayerfully consider where you can help. 2024 Pledge cards will also be distributed. Pledges allow our finance committee to develop a budget for the coming year. Consecration Sunday will be November 19. You may bring your pledge cards and time and talent sheets to church that day or submit them any time prior.



# Evangelism Update

The Evangelism Committee has a list of responsibilities that are vital to accomplishing our goals. Number one on that list is:

**The Evangelism Committee will be more intentional in praying for those who share the Gospel, for opportunities to witness, and for those who hear to repent and believe.**

This specific prayer is actually the heart of Evangelism. If we truly want others to know the Word of God, to believe in the Gospel, and to live eternally with God, then we will seek the guidance of our Lord.

## Proverbs 3:5-6

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."*

## Acts 2:28

*"You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."*

We are to acknowledge the Lord in all our ways and to trust in Him with our whole heart. Through prayer we seek God's understanding, God's guidance, and God's mercy. He will bring the opportunities to share the Gospel and to witness. He will open the ears and hearts and eyes of those who hear his Word.

Prayer should be the foundation of everything we do (in all our ways).

## Jeremiah 17:7

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord."*

**Won't you join us as we pray for those who share the Gospel, for opportunities to witness, and for those who hear to repent and believe?**

We know that when we seek the Lord with all our heart and pray according to His will, He provides in abundance, far more than we can imagine.

## The Evangelism Committee

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES

### Sunday, November 5

First Reading Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7

Second Reading 1 Thess. 4:13-18

Gospel Matthew 23:1-12

### Sunday, November 12

First Reading Joshua 24:1-3a

Psalm 78:1-7

Second Reading 1 Thess. 4:13-18

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

### Sunday, November 19

First Reading Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

Second Reading 1 Thess. 5:1-11

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

### Sunday, November 26

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16

Psalm 100

Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46



## Local History

### Rebecca Bethune Kelly Shaw

Rebecca Bethune Kelly Shaw lived an interesting life. She was born in Moore county on January 6, 1829 to Peter Kelly and Catherine McIntosh Kelly. The Kelly and McIntosh families of northern Moore County emigrated from the Isle of Skye in Scotland in the . Ms. Shaw was one of eleven children born to Pat Kelly and his wife. She attended the Floral College for Women where she was an exceptional mathematician. She married Peter Cornelius Shaw on December 22, 1853. The Shaws, in time, moved back to Moore County and became members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Rebecca Shaw was co-President of the Women's Missionary Society of Bethesda Church. Ms. Shaw died November 20, 1907 at the age of 78. At the time of her death, she was the last Charter Member of Carthage Presbyterian Church. Her sister, Mrs. Flora McLean died two days later. She is buried beside her husband directly in front of Old



<https://bethesdapres.church>

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#### Sunday Schedule

9:15 Light fellowship breakfast

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 Worship Service

5:00 pm Youth Group

