



BETHESDA BEACON

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | May 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Bethesda,

I pray you are well and enjoying the Easter season.

This month we have a lot going on in the life of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church community. May brings a baptism, Ascension Day, Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering Sunday, Mother’s Day, and Youth Sunday. Most of all, during this month, we will celebrate Pentecost.

Pentecost means “fifty” in Greek. In Jewish tradition, it takes places fifty days after Passover, and, in the Christian tradition, fifty days after Easter. In the Old Testament, Pentecost was one of the three major festivals in which faithful Israelites had to journey up to Jerusalem. On Pentecost, the Israelites went up to give thanks to God for the first fruits of the harvest. It also was a time for Israel to reflect on God’s giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. So essentially it is a time dedicated to thinking about God’s gifts: the gift of grain and Law; in other words, the basics for life.

For Christians, Pentecost also celebrates a greater gift, the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, we read about the earliest disciples gathering in Jerusalem, where they receive the pouring out of God’s Spirit. It is a moment that reminds us that we need more than bread and law to enjoy life. We need God’s very own Spirit and presence.

This springtime, when firstfruits are starting to appear, when we are reminded of the gift of God’s Spirit, we don’t have to journey up to Jerusalem and offer up a sacrifice. However, we can still take time to take stock of the One who gives, gives, and gives. If we do, we will find ourselves grateful that we are the firstfruits that God intends us to be.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. David Priddy

what's inside

- Message from the Pastor.....1
- May Birthdays.....2
- Christian Care.....2
- Celebrations and Concerns.....3
- Music Notes.....4
- Scholarship Awards.....4
- Youth Update.....5
- Evangelism.....6
- Presbyterian Women.....7
- Vacation Bible School.....8
- Initiatives and Opportunities.....9-11
- History Corner.....12

May

Birthdays

- 1 Dell Crumpton
Alan Moon
Nicole Williams
Dean McNeill
- 2 Kitty Kuzminski
Ian Blue
Mary Lawrie
- 4 Cindy Kane
- 7 Michael Bean
- 9 Ayla Jacobs
- 10 Logan Cunningham
- 11 Georgia Proctor
Ron Schuch
- 12 Tammy Clarke
- 14 Tom Blue
- 15 Amelia Driggers
- 16 Julian Wilson
- 17 Mary Wilkinson
- 19 Jakob Gorba
Alyssa Ferguson
- 21 Lisa McDonald
- 23 Jimmy Gorba
- 26 Chuck Dearborn
Trinity Andersen
- 28 Jackson Smith
David J. Keith
- 29 Sam Smithson
- 30 Mike Pace
- 31 Michael Miller



The Christian Care Committee will continue the mission of the Assistance Team by supporting Southern Middle School and Cranes Creek with a Christmas fund. Last year we were able to give each school \$2,600. This money was used to purchase gifts and other supplies for children who would not have received a Christmas gift otherwise. Some of the funds were saved for emergencies or situations that arise during the school year.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this mission can include Christian Care/Christmas Fund on the memo of their contributions. Any questions can be directed to Terri Combs.

Thank you ahead of time for your support of this worthy cause.

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.' Deuteronomy 15:11

The Homeless Outreach Ministry delivered 105 meals to individuals experiencing homelessness in the month of April.

Thank you for all your continued support. We need your help keeping the pantry stocked. Please remember those less fortunate when you are out shopping. We need **BABY WIPES**, and canned goods. They can be placed either in the Narthex or the boxes by the office.

Celebrations and Concerns



We continue to keep the family of Willis Clark in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers. Willis passed away April 12 and his services were held April 17.

Hannah, Adelaide, Isabelle, and Elias Ough were baptized on Sunday April 14. We are thrilled to have them join our Bethesda family. Please be sure to welcome them.



Music Notes

As the choir starts their last month of rehearsals before the summer break, I want to thank each of them for their dedication and talent. They are a hardworking, fun, and talented bunch. I have enjoyed our time together. Also, a big thank you to all of you who have taken the time to show your support and appreciation for their time and talents. It is always nice to have your effort recognized and appreciated. As we start the summer break, I would love for some of you to participate. If you would be able and willing to share your musical talent with Bethesda, please contact me. You can email, phone, or come see me after worship one day.

On May 12, the children's choir will sing and on May 19, Pentecost, we plan to have some different instruments playing, including the handbells. Also, that will be our Youth Sunday celebration.

As always thank you for your support.

Blessings,

Earlene



The Scholarship Committee would like to recognize the following individuals as recipients of Bethesda Scholarship Awards for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Burlingame Scholarship - Mason Roth

The McKeithen Scholarship - Theo Ardinger, Nate Ardinger, Katie Formanski, Charlie Hill, Rebecca Hill, Cullen Martin, Tucker Martin, Connor Morgan, Sally Noyes and Mason Roth.

The Mona Kahl Scholarship - Katie Formanski, Charlie Hill, Rebecca Hill, Sally Noyes, Mason Roth, Somer Lee, and Sierra Huffman

All applicants completed an application, and provided a resume, educational goals, and faith statement that were rigorously reviewed. We are so proud of our young adults!

Youth Update

Bethesda Youth Group (BYG)

I can't believe we are already to May & the school year will soon be coming to a close. The youth have started working on Youth Sunday and are excited to help lead the congregation in worship on May 19. That Sunday, we will also be collecting items for the food pantry such as wipes, bags of chicken or tuna, and small fruit cups. Please keep all of our students in your prayers as they finish their classes and complete their end of year testing. As always, thank you for your continued support of our youth program. Ashtyn

Family Fun Night is May 5 at 4:30 pm

Faith Weaving Friends will be May 10th at 5:30 pm

Youth Sunday will be on Pentecost, May 19. Our youth will participate in the service and we will recognize our graduates. If you are a high school Senior and wish to do a Senior Moment, let the office know. If someone in your family is graduating from any level of school, please let the office know so we can recognize them.

Merry Hearts Preschool

Preschool Sunday was April 21 and was very well attended! We celebrated the 20th anniversary of Merry Hearts Preschool at Bethesda. Scarlett Roth was recognized for her dedication and spiritual gifts; under her leadership, more than 300 children have gone through the Merry Hearts program in the last 20 years! The kids did a wonderful job singing during the service. Lunch and their annual art show followed with many families staying to enjoy the afternoon together. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success, especially our Merry Hearts teachers, families, and the Evangelism Committee. Preschool graduation is set for May 24. The annual Zoophonics Parade was April 29. The kids did a great job showing how well they know their letters. As usual, the costumes were extraordinary!



Evangelism

Direct Evangelism

The first and foremost approach/style of evangelism is “**Direct Evangelism.**”

Direct Evangelism involves directly preaching the gospel to more than one person, and is straight to the point—less focused on building relationships or arguments and more on just getting the message out there in a strong way.

Direct Evangelism finds its basis in:

Acts 10:42: *And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead;*

Mark 16:15: *And he said unto them. Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature;* and

2 Timothy 4:2: *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*

Direct Evangelism is personified by sermons each Sunday. But consider the choir singing, Moore Brass playing, the groups and individuals singing or playing instruments - are they not a form of Direct Evangelism? In their way, they too are “preaching” the word and spirit of Christ. They lead to a discussion on faith.

Can you think of an opportunity to “preach” the gospel to a group?

Presbyterian Women

Bethesda's women have been busy. We started out the month with "Gifts of Women Sunday" on April 7. Betsy Mofield and Gloria Crane were awarded the Women's Lifetime Achievement Award for their faithful service to our church.

On April 20 several of us went to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Sanford for our Women's Spring Gathering.

Our sewing group, Bethesda Christian Crafters, had a table displaying samples of our pillowcase and backpack mission project.

Our spring mission , the Birthday Offering, begins Sunday April 28 and will conclude on Sunday May 19 with a covered dish luncheon. The meat and drinks will be provided. There will be an opportunity to sign up for side dishes using the sign up genius.

Moving ahead, as most of you know I will be passing the women's moderator baton after this year. I have gotten a great sense of satisfaction and grown spiritually during my reign. I could not have done it without the support from all Bethesda's ladies and men. This fall, Janet Peele will be taking over the moderator position. I know you will give her the same support you've given me. I will remain organizing the bereavement meals and the Christian Crafters.

Blessings,

Leslie Champion



Vacation Bible School



It's Almost Here... Vacation Bible School 2024!!

Mark your calendar and get ready to dive into an amazing undersea adventure where kids will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.

At Scuba VBS, kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

DATES: Monday, June 10th - Friday, June 14th

TIME: 5 pm - 7:15 pm, dinner will be served

WHERE: Bethesda Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

With music, crafts, and games, it is a week a of fun you don't want to miss!

REGISTER NOW - Go to <https://bethesdapres.church>

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.



Open Donation

Together we can make a better future



DONATE NOW

We're Accepting :

- **CANNED** Fruit
- **Wet Wipes**
- **Bottle water**

Thank You so much if you choose to donate it really does make a difference in people's lives. Donations will be accepted in a box outside the office.
Have a great rest of your day!

Bethesda continues to collect nonperishable foods of all kinds to give to those who are food insecure. We also have freezer space to keep donated hamburger meat, hot dogs, bread/buns, etc. In addition to the homeless outreach initiative, Bethesda serves many people within the community who need help feeding their families. Items to make meals are especially useful. Canned/packaged fruits, vegetables, protein sources such as tuna, canned chicken, and beans are needed. Please consider buying a little extra to donate on your next shopping trip.

Opportunities & Initiatives

Devotional Invitation



The Session invites you to participate in developing an Advent Devotional Series for the 2024 season. After prayerful consideration, if you accept this invitation, you will be assigned scripture passages and given guidelines in early June. This will give you time to consider the passages and write a short devotion for one day of the Advent Season. This is a beautiful opportunity for you to share and nourish others with the help of the Holy Spirit. Your participation will be a wonderful experience for you and our family of fellowship. Anyone is welcome to contribute.

Timeline

April 28-June 2	Invitation offered/individuals commit to participate
June 2	Basic guidelines given and scriptures assigned
June 2-End of August	Time to consider scriptures
End of August	Support workshop offered
September 29	Deadline to submit your devotion

I wish to participate in the 2024 Advent Devotional creation.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please place this paper in the offering plate or return it to the church office. You may also call or email the church office to indicate your willingness to participate.

Opportunities & Initiatives



Gagaball Disc Golf

West Community

FAMILY FUN DAY

Mini-Golf Cornhole

Zipline Open

Sunday, May 19 – 3:30 to 6:30

Families & Children of All Ages are invited to Enjoy Pentecost Sunday Afternoon at Camp Monroe! The POOL will be open!

Recreation time

Dinner (no charge, donations)

Vespers Music & Reflection

24501 Camp Rd., Laurel Hill, NC Please reply by the 13th

Camp Monroe Family Fun Day May 19: Families & Youth Groups are invited to Family Fun Day hosted by the West Community of our Presbytery. This will be at Camp Monroe on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The fun begins at 3:30 PM with many options, including swimming in the pool, 6 holes of Disc Golf, Playing Gagaball, Cornhole, ZIPLINE (release form required), Mini-golf (Putt Putt), and more. Following the recreation time, there will be dinner then Vespers. Everything will wrap up at about 6:30. If you can come, please let us know. There is no charge for dinner but they want to have enough! So please reply by Monday the 13th at presbycc.org/2024/family-fun-day-24/ The camp is located at 24501 Camp Rd., Laurel Hill, NC. All are invited to attend and bring friends!

History Corner

Friday, February 11, 1927

Go to the Sandhills Women's Exchange

If you are a stranger, you want to see the places of interest. Go to the Sandhills Women's Exchange in the original "Log House," right across from the beautiful Village Chapel in Pinehurst. Get something unusual or typical to carry home with you. Best of all, you will be helping the Executive Committee to assist their deserving caregivers.

Go see, buy, help.

Mrs. Robert N. Page

Submitted by local historian Shaw Ray



1002 N. Sandhills Blvd.

Aberdeen, NC 28315

<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

