



BETHESDA BEACON

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | August 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear fellow members and friends of Bethesda Presbyterian Church,
Over the last several Sundays the liturgy and the Word have been drawing our attention to the image of the Church as the body of Christ. It is an important metaphor because it points to how we can live our diversity of callings in unity.

The implications of this are serious and broad. For one, it means that if one suffers, we all suffer together. When we lose a member of the Church or is a member of the Church is hurt, like a body, we all experience loss and pain. It also means that when someone joins the Church, the whole body gains something. Each member is endowed with a gift from God's Spirit, a gift not only for the individual but for everyone connected to that member in the body. The list could go on, but the point is clear: Christians live life together, enjoying and suffering together.

Here at Bethesda Presbyterian, we have been witnessing this reality of living in Christ play out. We have experienced highs and lows, losses and gains, joy and suffering, with baptisms, funerals, and new members. In this season, let's not take for granted that we are connected, but live into it with zeal to build up one another.

That is another big implication of living in the body. Our connection to one another means that even small acts can have big effects on others in the body. I like to think of it as tossing a pebble into the lake out front of the Church. It feels small, but, if you pay attention, you will see ripples. Your gifts, prayers, and encouragements do more than you might imagine: they have a ripple effect that build up the body.

Warmly,
Rev David Priddy

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Celebrations & Concerns

August Birthdays

On July 21 we celebrated the baptisms of
Brittney James and Addison Painter.

Welcome to the Bethesda Family!



Prayers and Sympathy:

To the McGiffin family upon the passing of Don and Jean McGiffin. Please keep their daughters, Katy and Morgan, and their families in your prayers. There will be a memorial service for Don and Jean on August 3 in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. There will be a short reception in the Fellowship Hall after the service, followed by a private family committal service at Old Bethesda.

- 1 Tommie Blue, Avery Jessup
- 2 Sierra Huffman,
Andrew Formanski,
Sherry Wright
- 5 David Keith
- 6 Jamie Clarke, Terry Hardison
- 9 Jim Mack, Sam Ransdell,
Patrick Byers
- 11 Christian Blue, Lynn Dworak,
Justin Andersen,
Brenda Huffman,
Carrie Moon
- 12 Kelly Clark
- 14 Steve Morgan
- 16 Mary Lynn Sutphen,
Scarlett Roth
- 17 Davis Clark, Nancy Gorba
- 18 Barb Ficklin, Mark Jessup
- 20 Cy Israel, Janet Peele,
Nancy Dearborn
- 21 Tucker Martin
- 24 Jeff Wynn
- 26 Dan Gooden
- 27 Birdie Wynn
- 30 Shaw Ray
- 31 Ella Clark, Gloria Crane

Music Notes

I have been a church musician for over 60 years. Some of my churches have been larger than Bethesda and some smaller. I have worked with Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, and non-denominational churches, BUT NEVER have I had the variety and wealth of talent to enhance our worship as is present at Bethesda. Another blessing is not only the available talent but the willingness to use that talent to the Glory of God. That is part of what makes Bethesda special. Thank you to all who have so willingly shared this summer.

Chancel Choir will begin on August 21st and the choir will return to the loft on "Rally or Genesis" Sunday. If you enjoy singing and want to share your talent, please come. Choir practice starts at 6:00 and will end at 7:00 PM. We work hard and yet still have fun learning not only the music but also how to interpret the music the way the composer/arranger intends. We try to pick different genres/types so that hopefully we will reach everyone at some point. If you know someone that has a nice voice and would like for a choir member or me to reach out, please let us know.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Blessings, Earlene

Youth Update

Family Fun Night starts back August 4 at 4:30 pm for families with kids preK-5th grade. Please let us know if you are coming: <https://forms.gle/Piu1FBo5QrvWwr9i8>

Faith Weaving Friends had a pool party recently and are on break for the summer.

Elementary Sunday School Classes on break for the summer. Classes will start back on Rally Day, September 8.

Bethesda Youth Group (BYG) on break for Summer. Lock-in August 2nd. Outing to "Tammy's Lake House" August 17.

We need volunteers for the upcoming school year to lead BYG. If you're interested, contact the office.

If you were involved with this year's **VBS** in any way, please take our survey: <https://bit.ly/vbssurvey24>

Youth Update continued

The Youth Sunday School class continues to study the book of Daniel. We are calling this the D&D Class (Doughnuts & Daniel). We have made it over 1/2 way through the Old Testament book of Daniel. The first six chapters are more historical, giving us the details of how Daniel and his friends lived in Babylon. There was some prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, especially the dream about the statue. We are now reading the second half, chapters 7-12. As of the end of July, we have reached Ch. 9. We read Daniel's prayer and the understanding of his visions. There are the 4 beasts, the ram and goat, and the 70 weeks appointed to Israel. This takes in account the 6 kingdoms (think of the statue) and the beasts.

Daniel

Lion w/ wings like an eagle

Bear w/ 3 ribs in his mouth

Leopard w/ 4 wings/heads/horns

Dreadful & Terrible Beast

Kingdom of Satan (10 horns)

Kingdom of Christ

Keep Your Light Shining!!!

Henster

Nebuchadnezzar

Babylon (Head of Gold)

Medes/Persians (arms/chest silver)

3 ribs: Lybia, Egypt, Babylon

Greece (bronze belly & thighs)

Alexander the Great then the 4 rulers
after Alexander's death

Roman Empire (Legs/iron)

toes/feet (clay & iron mixture)

Antichrist

Jesus (the Stone)



Faith Weaving Friends Pool Party

Evangelism

Service Evangelism

The sixth approach/style of evangelism is **Service Evangelism**.

Service Evangelism is sharing God's love by simply serving others in practical ways without asking for or expecting anything in return. The focus of **Service Evangelism** is doing acts of kindness for anyone and everyone. **Service evangelism** is all about meeting the needs of others and showing them the love of Christ through acts of service.

We can see the basis for **Service Evangelism** in **Galatians 6:10**, "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all people*". **Romans 2:4** also provides one of the motivations behind this type evangelism. Here the Bible tells us that God's kindness leads people to repentance.

While **Service Evangelism** is certainly a biblical practice, it is incomplete as a form of evangelism. **Service Evangelism** can be effective in opening a person's heart to receive the message once he or she hears it. However, the act of service must be closely followed by the spoken message of Christ; thus, bringing someone to accepting Christ as Savior.

Some of our current examples of **Service Evangelism** are support for Food Banks, Habitat for Humanity, Thanksgiving dinners, etc. The possibilities are endless, but the common denominator is that nothing is asked for in return.

Fellowship



PICNIC AND RALLY DAY KICKOFF– Let's kick off Rally Day with some end of summer fun! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 7th from 5:00 to 7:00** for hot dogs and fixings at our McKeithen Building. The Recreation Committee is hosting a **corn hole tournament**. **Sign up ahead of time at <https://shorturl.at/Qhx9Y>** or the day of. We will also have a **waterslide for the kids** (wear your suits!) and everyone gets to help churn our **homemade ice cream!**

You are invited to participate in Table of 6, a fun casual way to meet new friends at Bethesda! The Fellowship Committee is organizing groups of six people who will meet once a month for food and fellowship. Once a group is determined, each group/couple will take a month to host a meal and prepare the main dish with each guest bringing a side, salad, or dessert. The group could also meet at a restaurant or at church if the calendar permits. This would ideally be a time to get to know each other, share good food and laughs, and maybe even play a game if the group is so inclined. Once everyone has taken turn as host, new groups would be organized. Sign up today at [Bethesda Presbyterian Church: Table of 6 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)



Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women's Circles at Bethesda will be starting back in September. If you are interested in joining a circle or finding out more information, you may contact one of the leaders.

Friendship Circle

Leader - Carolyn Burns

Phone 910-315-5914

Meets the 1st Monday of every month

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's 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

Stephen Ministry



Have you ever wondered about the banner hanging on the wall to the left of the pulpit? Bethesda Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry church. Although our activity has waned over the past few years, we still have active Stephen Ministers. But, what is Stephen Ministry about?

The overall mission of the Stephen Ministry is summed up in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians: ". . . To equip the saints (Stephen Ministers) for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry that helps hurting individuals receive Christian love and support through one-on-one caring relationships with Stephen Ministers (members of our congregation who have been specially trained to support people in need).

Back to the banner and the logo within. The Stephen Ministry logo signifies that we are all broken people and it is only through the cross of Jesus that we can be made whole. We will have more about Stephen Ministry in the next issue of the Beacon.

Opportunities & Initiatives

REGIONAL OUTREACH WOMEN OF GOD PRESENTS

Empowering Women to
NAVIGATE THROUGH ADVERSITY

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENS ME" PHILIPPIANS 4:13

07 SEP
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

REGISTRATION
EARLY BIRD - \$35 (UNTIL AUGUST 23RD)
EVENT DAY - \$40

*THEME BASKETS
*VENDORS
*ATTIRE AUTUMN COLORS

HOSTED BY
LADY MARY LEGRAND
PRAYER & FAITH TEMPLE
HAMLET, NC

PASTOR Y. T. MCNEILL
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
KANNAPOLIS, NC

REV. KENNETH STEWART
EMOTIONAL ADVERSITY
PINEHURST, NC

RAKIA LEGRAND
MENTAL ADVERSITY
GREENSBORO, NC

STEPHANIE STEPHENS
PHYSICAL ADVERSITY
ABERDEEN, NC

DR. GOLDIE WELLS
SPIRITUAL ADVERSITY
GREENSBORO, NC

FOR MORE INFORMATION
SISTER BRIDGET LITTLE (910) 315-7108 | STEPHANIE STEPHENS (910) 315-7837



Give blood.
Help save lives.



Community Blood Drive Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Held in the Fellowship Hall
1002 N. Sandhills Blvd.
Aberdeen, NC 28315

Monday, August 26, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To schedule your lifesaving donation, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: BPC

Donors needed! Come give blood in August for \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/Help

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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The Bethesda Christian Crafters will meet August 10 from 8-2 in the Fellowship Hall. They will work on creating some additional pillowcases. No sewing experience is necessary, however, if you have a sewing machine, scissors, straight pins, an iron, or extra extension cords, please bring them! Also bring a snack to share with the group. Hope to see you there!

History Corner

The Sandhills Citizen, Friday May 25, 1923 - Submitted by Shaw Ray

Ye Are Not Dead

In Flanders still the poppies grow
Among the crosses, bending low,
 On fragile stems, their cups of red
 Like censers swinging o'er the dead
That fell short days ago.

Ye are not dead! If it were so
We that abide could never go
As blithely marching by your bed
 In Flanders' fields.

Because your bodies lie below,
Above, with an intenser glow,
 The torch moves on; in your brave stead
 Men dare to bleed as ye have bled -
That larks may sing and poppies blow
 In Flanders' fields.

- Frank E. Hering



1002 N. Sandhills Blvd.

Aberdeen, NC 28315

<https://bethesdapres.church>

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

910-944-1319

bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com

Summer Sunday Schedule

10:00 Sunday School for Adults

11:00 Worship Service

