



BETHESDA BEACON

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | October 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends and members of Bethesda,

October is here; leaves turn, fruit ripens. It is the time of harvest and with harvest, celebration. At the same time, however, suffering is everywhere. Hurricane Helene has devastated Western NC and parts of Georgia and Tennessee, taking lives, destroying homes, and leaving serious need in its wake. The Israel and Palestinian conflict has now entered its second year and has expanded into Lebanon. The war in Ukraine continues—not to mention all the conflicts in the Global South. Closer to home, in our own congregation, people are suffering illness, pain, and facing mortality daily. Each of us suffers in our own way. It is one of the inescapable realities of human life.

In moments like these—when the ubiquity of suffering becomes most apparent to us—we have the opportunity to recognize that despite all our differences and disagreements; economic, political, personal, or otherwise; we are united by this brutal but honest fact about life: we all suffer. This marks our whole existence. It binds us together.

For this very reason, the writer of the book of Hebrews says that Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, had to endure sufferings in order to save the world (Hebrews 2:10). In order to become one with us, Jesus had to enter the fray of human frailty, pain, and mortality. So, what we see is that right at the heart of the Gospel is a God who embraces suffering, a God who, in human form, takes up a Cross and co-suffers with others.

This season, when you are experiencing suffering, don't let it close you off; let it open you up. Let it be a strange opportunity for you to empathize and find yourself in union with others. This is what Christ did. This is what he calls us to do. And, somehow, I believe, we will see God working through all of this difficulty to bring life and newness.

With love,

Rev. David Priddy

what's inside

Message from the Pastor.....	1
October Birthdays.....	2
Celebrations & Concerns.....	2
Music Notes.....	3
Youth & Family Ministry	4
Youth Update.....	5
September Events.....	6
Homecoming.....	7
Evangelism & Christian Care.....	8
Presbyterian Women.....	9
Stephen Ministry.....	10
Administrative Notes, Initiatives, & Opportunities.....	11
History Corner	12

Celebrations & Concerns

October Birthdays

There were many things to be grateful for at Bethesda in the month of September. Here is a list of a few of the things that happened:

- The annual Regional Women of God conference was held on church grounds Sep 7.
- Our church picnic and Rally Day kick-off was the evening of Sep 7 on campus.
- We had a great turn out for Rally Day on Sep 8. Congratulations Team Leviticus for winning Bible Trivia. We graduated another four children to "Big Church" during worship.
- The Evangelism Committee began the review of the Heidelberg Catechism.
- The Bethesda Christian Crafters met the 14th and made some more pillowcases for area shelters.
- Pastor Priddy's Jonah Bible Study started Sep 15 during the Sunday school hour and continues Oct 6. Videos of the first two studies are online.
- Rev. Marielis Barreto from Puerto Rico, 2024 PC (USA) preached Sep 22.
- The 101st Anniversary of the first Homecoming was Sep 29 at Old Bethesda

You can see pictures of many of these events on pages 6 and 7.

2	Emily DeSpain
	Andy Robertson
4	Brandon Wilson
	David Byers
6	Madeline McClain
7	Vickie Auman
9	Marge Downey
	Brian Ferguson
16	Kathleen White
18	Hunter Robertson
	Brooklyn Bean
	Kelly Jacobs
20	Wesley Robertson
22	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

Music Notes

Many thanks to the chancel choir for the music they provided and led for Homecoming. All the music was well presented and uplifting. The weather was beautiful, and everyone seemed happy.

Children's choir will start Sunday, October 27th at 9 A.M. in the choir room. I look forward to working with our children for the coming Thanksgiving and Advent season.

A big thank you to all of you and the Session for repairing the organ. It is a nice instrument and should serve Bethesda for many generations if we continue to maintain it. Again, your support is greatly appreciated.

Blessings,

Earlene



Youth and Family Ministry Programs

Bethesda offers programs for the spiritual growth of the whole family.

Family Fun Night The first Sunday of the month from 4:30-6:30 pm. This family Bible Study is perfect for families with children pre-K through 5th grade. It includes dinner, music, games, and crafts.

Faith Weaving Friends This program brings together 2nd-5th graders every third Friday of the month from 5:30-7 pm. It includes fellowship over dinner, Bible study, and fun!

Bethesda Youth Group (BYG) Geared toward 6th-12th grade students, BYG meets some Sundays from 5-7 pm (check the calendar for exact dates). Each meeting includes dinner, recreation, and a Bible Study. **NOTE:** The Youth Group is looking for adult leaders to help plan & lead activities. The church's leadership is currently working to figure out the best way to proceed with our youth program. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the church office

Adult Bible Studies Various Bible studies are offered throughout the year. Check our website for more info or contact the church office to receive notifications.

Presbyterian Women's Circles Our women's Bible Study groups meet monthly from September to May. Bethesda offers four women's circles that meet on various days and times. Please see page 9 for all the details and contact information.

Men of the Church Gathering quarterly on the first Thursday of the month, Men of the Church enjoy fellowship over dinner, a devotion, and discuss mission, outreach, and congregational support opportunities. Check the church calendar for meeting dates and times.

Sunday School Classes meet at 10 am on Sundays after the breakfast hour.

- **Nursery** (Ages 0-2) Our youngest learners enjoy time in the nursery reading books, singing songs, and learning through play and exploration.
- **Lower Elementary** (Ages 3 - Kindergarten) Utilizes curriculum to teach foundational Bible knowledge. Children enjoy activities, crafts, games, and imaginative play to learn and reinforce lessons.
- **Upper Elementary** (1-5 Grade) Utilizes age appropriate Sunday School lessons while keeping children engaged through crafts, games, and fun.
- **Junior and Senior High** (6-12 Grade) Studies different books of the Bible, comparing and contrasting stories and characters.
- **Parlor Class** Studies different books of the Bible as well as theological books to gain a deeper understanding of the Word, how it applies to the world today, and to strengthen faith.
- **Jesse Wimberly** (Adult) Utilizes *The Present Word* curriculum series to facilitate instruction and discussion.
- **The Seekers** (Adult) Currently studying the Gospel of John, this class studies and discusses how they can apply God's Word together.
- **Jonah Study** The first few weeks of Sunday School 2024, Pastor David will lead an in-depth class on Jonah during the Sunday School hour. All are invited to attend.

Youth Update

The Youth Sunday School We have been watching the movie Jesus Revolution. It is the true story based in the 1970's, where people are looking for the truth but in the wrong places. Greg, Lonnie (the hippie street preacher), and Pastor Chuck meet. Chuck welcomes the hippies into the church. This did not go over well with some of the members; tradition vs new ways to worship (a band for instance playing during worship). However, the spark grew into a fire and a revival started. They ended up having to move the church worship to the beach for everyone who came to be baptized. We haven't finished watching it all yet but we have seen the spark, the tradition of the church vs. new ways to worship (to reach others), and we left off where we saw what happens when power goes to Lonnie's head (pride) and forgets why he was originally serving/worshiping God. We will see the rest of the story next Sunday.

I was asked if I attended these meetings with the hippies. Now some of you might remember the actual Jesus Revolution but I am not that old. As we watch the movie, a question I have not asked yet but for all to think about it. Will there be another Jesus Revolution? Could these youth be part of it?

Don't forget to mark those calendars for Saturday October 19, the next Henster Adventure. In case of rain (I will come up with plan B). I know my four students in Sunday School have claimed their spots. Hopefully the leaves are changing color while we are there.

Clues: (Two new clues)

- 1. We will take a hike/walk about where it began. So, you will need to wear walking shoes and maybe bring a water bottle.
- 2. It will be a first for an Henster Adventure. None of the other Henster's kids have been there or done it.
- 3. "My Precious" you might say if you find it.
- 4. Way Down you may go. In fact, you will.
- 5. Road Warrior Hawk says "Oh What a Rush"
- 6. Are You Afraid of the Dark? Follow the light.
- 7. Back to the Future

Keep Your Light Shining!!!

-Henster

September Events at Bethesda



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

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

PASTOR Y. T. MCNEILL
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
KANNAPOLIS, NC

REV. KENNETH STEWART
EMOTIONAL ADVERSITY
PHOENIX, AZ

THEME BASKETS
*ATTIRE AUTUMN COLORS

EVENT TO BE HELD AT:
BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1002 N. SANDHILLS BLVD
ABERDEEN, NC 28315

RAKIA LEGRAND (GREENSBORO, NC)
STEPHANIE STEPHENS (ABERDEEN, NC)
DR. JERRY RIVERS (DILLON, SC)

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



Homecoming 2024



Evangelism

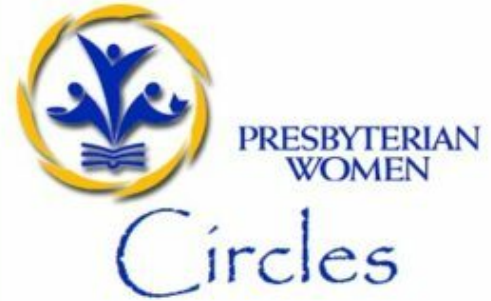
The Heidelberg Catechism Study

After seeing and hearing the first couple of questions, have you figured out why this catechism is so readily accepted? The Christians had their Apostles Creed, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and sacraments. What they did not have was COMFORT. The comfort theme was introduced in the first question: "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" The answer: "That I am not on my own, but belong . . . to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ." The second question and answer goes on to say, "I must know three things: how great my sin and misery are, how I am delivered from such sin and misery, and how I can live in gratitude to God for such deliverance." The sub-themes of question two form the three divisions of the Heidelberg Confession.

Christian Care

The Christian Care Committee will contribute to the "Child In Need Christmas Fund" again this year. Last year because of the generosity of Bethesda members we were able to deliver checks for \$2600 to both Southern Middle and Crains Creek Schools. The counselors at these schools then organized shopping trips with the parents of students who would otherwise have gone without at Christmas. In addition money was set aside for any emergencies that come up during the school year. If you or your committee, circle or any group would like to contribute to this worthy cause please mark donation to Christian Care/Christmas Fund. If you have any questions please contact Terri Combs.

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

***October's meeting is the 22nd at 6 pm in the Blue Sunday School Room**

Circle #4

Leader - Linda Parke

910-603-7214

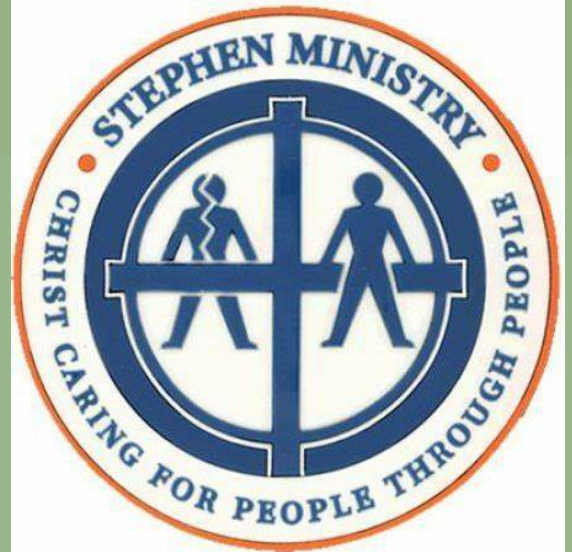
Meets 1st Tuesday of each month in the ladies parlor at 10 am

Group studies a bible study.

We will be collecting our Thank Offering in November with our luncheon to be held November 24.

Stephen Ministry

What Stephen Ministers Do (Excerpt from the Agreement to Receive Care)



A Stephen Minister is a trained and supervised congregation member who provides one-to-one, lay Christian care.

One-to-One: Each Stephen Minister is matched with one care receiver of the same gender. The two meet in person, typically once a week for about an hour, in a setting they have both agreed on. The caring relationship will be brought to closure when the need for care has been addressed.

Lay: Stephen Ministers are well-trained, supervised volunteers who provide a high level of care. They are NOT professional caregivers - their role is different from that of a counselor, pastor, or physician.

Christian: A Stephen Minister's care is an expression of Christ's love and an extension of the pastoral care of this congregation. When it comes to spiritual matters, Stephen Ministers meet their care receivers where they are, helping them work through challenges without pressuring them or forcing faith on them.

Care: Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting, praying, and helping their care receivers explore feelings without being judgmental, while offering emotional and spiritual support. Their role does not include providing other types of assistance - such as shopping, transportation, child-care, and other types of help - although at times they may help care receivers identify ways to fill those needs.

All things are done on Christ's schedule.

Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes



The Church Office will be open by appointment only October 3-11 while Julie is on vacation.

Pastor Priddy will be out of the country October 9-18.

The Elder on call for November is Jim Ransdell.

There will be a Congregational Meeting October 20 to elect two members to the Nominating Committee.

Chuck and Nancy Dearborn will have a vow renewal ceremony during the 11 o'clock worship service October 20. There will be a light reception following the service in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

[Bethesda Presbyterian Church: Trunk-Or-Treat at Old Bethesda, October 26, 4:30-6 pm \(signupgenius.com\)](#)



Volunteers Needed to create bulletin boards around the church campus.

Please call the office if you'd like to help!

History Corner

The Pilot, October 30, 1925 - Found, abbreviated for space, and submitted by:

- Shaw Ray

Halloween!

Halloween! Does not the name give you a jolly, creepy, feeling? Is not the sound even mysterious? One feels as if the shadows of spirits are lurking in the corners and good-natured match making fairies are abroad "on such a night." I am reminded of the first time I heard of Halloween. I was quite a little child living at grandfather's. An aunt of mine was on a visit to her old home. Two or three lads, cousins of mine, had come to grandfather's to spend Saturday night, and over Sunday. My aunt said to me in a whisper, full of awe, "Tonight is Halloween!"... The poet Robert Burns immortalized Halloween. The custom was brought over from Scotland by Scotch settlers.

Read the poem *Halloween* by Robert Burns here: [Halloween by Robert Burns - Poems | Academy of American Poets](#)



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<https://bethesdapres.church>

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

910-944-1319

bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com

Sunday Schedule

9:15 Breakfast

10:00 Sunday School for all ages

11:00 Worship Service

See our calendar on our website for days and times of youth events.

