



BETHESDA BEACON

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | November 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Bethesda,
I pray you are well and walking in faith, hope, and love.

This November begins our Stewardship Season at Bethesda Presbyterian, a time when we reflect on the call to be stewards. The steward is a seemingly outdated vocation in modern society, but it is an image we encounter throughout the Scriptures. To be a steward is to be someone who is entrusted to manage the household and resources of another. A steward is given the responsibility to act on someone else's authority. Often, stewards appear in the parables of Christ and represent Israel and, by extension, the Church.

This season, remember that you are a steward. Everything you own, every talent or skill you have, and all your time ultimately belongs to the Lord. God has given us these things to use wisely for his glory, our growth, and our neighbors building up. This season, we should each look at our time, talents, and treasures and examine whether or not we see ourselves as stewards!

Kindly,
Rev. David Priddy

*There will be a **Time and Talent Fair** in the Fellowship Hall after worship November 10th. Stop by for snacks and to check out our committee booths. See where you can get involved. A photographer will also be present to take family or individual pictures for the directory. Printed photos will be available for a small fee.*

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Celebrations & Concerns

November Birthdays

October was another busy month in the life of Bethesda Church.

- Pastor David completed the Jonah bible study during the Sunday School hour. All of the study videos may be found on the church website under the "About Us/Sunday School" page.
- October 20th we celebrated Chuck and Nancy Dearborn's 50th wedding anniversary with a vow renewal ceremony and reception.



- We had a successful Trunk or Treat event at Old Bethesda on the 26th.
- We celebrated Reformation and All Saints Sunday on October 27th.
- Merry Hearts Preschool had a fun Fall Fest on the 30th.

2	Nate Forbis
3	Henry Hogan Mike Laswell
5	Palmer Noyes
9	Connor Ferguson
12	Andy White Liam Gradzewicz
16	Lee Miller Ann Litton
17	Christi Conley
20	Isabelle Ough
21	Nate Ardinger
22	Cathy Carpenter
24	Kay Mack
25	Andy Auman Richard McInnis
26	Chrissy Excell
27	Mason roth
28	Brittney James
29	Debbie Pace
30	Betsy Mofield Sadie Proctor

Music Notes

The busy time of year has arrived. We have a great deal going on and would love to have some new voices in the choir. We are working on Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas music. Second through fifth-grade children's choir meets at 9:00 am on Sundays. We practice for 30 minutes, which still allows time for breakfast and Sunday School. Our goal is to sing several times during this season. There are special services each Sunday of Advent, starting with the Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday in December. This service will be held at 9 am and will last about 30 minutes. Then you can go to the Fellowship Hall for breakfast. At the 11 am service, we will celebrate communion. More about Advent and Christmas next month.

Blessings,

Earlene

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.

The Last Day to Donate is December 1

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

On Saturday October 19, the youth went on the Henster Adventure. If you remember, they were given clues on what and where they were going from last month's newsletter. The group ended up at Reed Gold Mine. This is where the America's gold rush began. They began the tour by going inside the old mine shaft way down in the ground to see how it was the darkness, chill in the air, and dampness. It was not designed for tall people. After making our way out, we headed over to do a little panning to find some precious gold. We were told 1 out of 10 would find some. We had two future panners, Trinity and Maddie found some gold flakes and got to take them home. After the excitement of finding gold, we headed out on one of the trails where we climbed over trees, up and down the hills, cross the meadow, to the Reed family grave yard. We played in the creek a bit, and enjoyed the nature (no electronics) and fellowship. Note: maps are deceiving, the trail seemed longer than the map said but well worth it. As we finished the day out, we made our way back home, a little bit tired (I was anyway). I can assure you there were smiles, laughs, and much fellowship had by all. Just think, we did not see everything there.

Keep watch, the next adventure is approaching in December: The Henster Christmas Adventure. I have already been asked by one of my older kids if we would go to ???? another blast from the past. They wanted to go back. We will see. So watch your emails for more details and date.

The Youth Sunday School class will be watching The Chosen until I can figure out the next book of the Bible to study.

Keep Your Light Shining!!!

Henster (Henry)



October Events at Bethesda



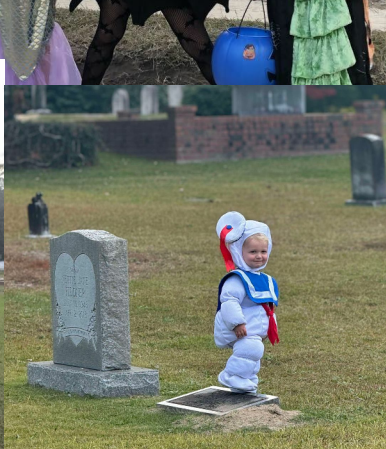
Faith Weaving Friends met at David Keith's property in October. As you can see, a very fun time was had by all the kids and families! Thanks to David for hosting!



Merry Hearts had their annual Fall Festival. The preK class is also conducting a science experiment watching a pumpkin decompose.



Trunk or Treat 2024



Evangelism

The Heidelberg Catechism Study

In the first four questions (Part 1, Our Misery) we discussed why we should be comforted in our sin and misery. With the fifth question we began Part 2 of the Heidelberg Confession, **Our Deliverance**. We spent little time (four of fifty-two days) on our sin and misery because *“there is nothing to be gained.”* Furthermore, spending too much time is both discouraging and depressing and the Catechism is about *comfort*.

In the first four questions, we have drawn a scriptural picture of “man”, who is unable, ON HIS OWN, to do *“anything good and is an heir to eternal death.”* Part 2 of the Heidelberg Confession (and the Bible) are about delivering us from Sin and Misery. According to the dictionary, Deliverance means the act of *“setting free, liberating, rescuing, saving from someone or something.”* As such, the Catechism, like the Bible, places the emphasis not on ourselves, but on God’s grace in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

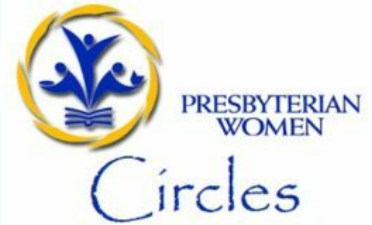
The Catechism began with *“How can we escape this punishment and be received in favor again.”* Part 2 is about answering that question.



Faith Presbyterian Church, on Bethesda Avenue in Aberdeen, was established near the site of an old Black burial ground on land obtained for the church by Malcolm M. Blue (1802-1872). The congregation formed shortly after the American Civil War by Black worshipers who no longer wished to attend services at the nearby Old Bethesda Church. Initially referred to as the Blue Crossing Church, the present structure was completed in in the late 1800's. The churchyard cemetery contains the graves of some of Faith's earliest members. Friends of Faith, Inc., a non-profit corporation, began in 1993 to preserve and protect the property and its history in response to the dissolution of the congregation. Bethesda church members, former Faith church members, and community representatives constituted the original Board of Directors. The Board is in the process of being reconstituted to continue their work. The building will be used for: Worship services for congregations in African American Christian traditions; informational and educational programs; periodic historic public viewings; and other programs approved under the direction and auspices of the Board of Directors. More history will be given in future articles as will information on how you can donate to the project.



Presbyterian Women



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

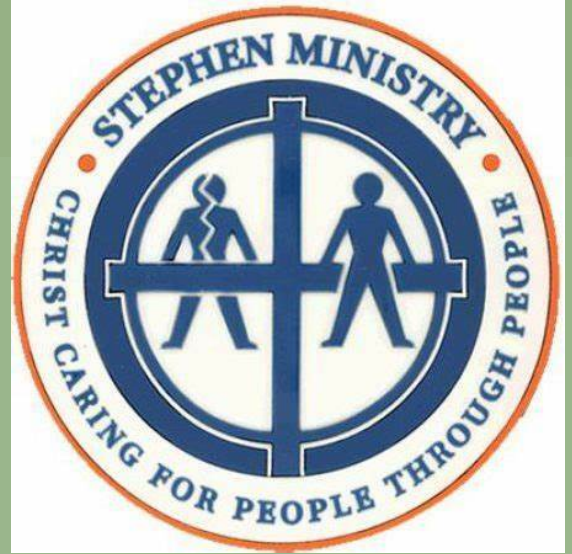
Meets 1st Tuesday of each month in the ladies parlor at 10 am
Group studies a bible study.

The Women of the Church will host our annual "Thank Offering" Luncheon and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 24th in the Fellowship Hall. The congregation is invited to join us for soup, sandwiches and dessert immediately after service. Envelopes will be provided for donations which provide grants for health-related ministries and other areas of need. Also, take advantage of our offering of baked goods, just in time for your Thanksgiving feast.

We have big plans for 2025. All the women of Bethesda will be encouraged to participate in quarterly meetings with presentations on the history and heritage of Bethesda Church and the community. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry Theology



The theology of the Stephen Ministry team is found in Ephesians 4:12-13: "to equip Saints for the work of Ministry, for building up the body of Christ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the son of God, to maturity to measure of the full stature of Christ." The Stephen Ministry is a team effort. The members of the team are the Pastor, Stephen Ministry Team Leaders, and Stephen Ministers.

Pastor: provides the leadership and oversight of the God-honoring lay ministry and supports the Stephen Leaders in their activities.

Stephen Leaders: are the mission-focused leaders, who make the highly effective lay ministry happen by coordinating activity, training and continuing education of Stephen Ministers, as well as working with the Pastor to select "Care Receivers".

Stephen Ministers: are the "Care Givers" who minister to those in need, the "Care Receivers".

The Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers are commissioned by the Congregation, through the Pastor. The commissioning is for two years and takes place after ten-plus weeks of training. The commissions are renewable given: "the individual's desire to stay active, remaining current through continuing education, and overall performance." November will see the commissioning of our new Stephen Leader, Dan Wiener, and the recruiting/selection of a new group of potential Stephen Ministers for training after the first of the year.

On November 10th we will commission Dan Wiener as our Stephen Ministry Leader and Coordinator at the 11 o'clock worship service.

Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes

Bethesda Presbyterian Church is scheduled to volunteer with Family Promise of Moore County (our local shelter for homeless women and children) **November 18th through 21st.**

We need to provide an evening meal and an overnight host(ess) each night.

Please reply to this email if you can provide a meal or stay overnight (schedule below).

Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Thanks so much!

LoJuanna Pages

Family Promise Coordinator

Bethesda Presbyterian

910-638-1866

Lbluepages@gmail.com



Community Blood Drive Bethesda Presbyterian Church

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

Monday, November 25, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule an appointment.



Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS
• Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!

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

ESP 1 - NOV 06 10:22:11 - NOV 18 2024 - 06:14:11 - 2024-11-27 09:12 - 3086



Join us for our annual Community Thanksgiving Day Meal

November 28

12 - 2 pm

Sit Down Eat In

Service

Only

In Our Fellowship Hall

1002 N Sandhills Blvd

Aberdeen

"The church with the lake out front"



History Corner

Submitted by
- Shaw Ray

Fall

As the leaves start to turn, so do our hearts. Crimson and gold in the chill of the air. Whispers of love in the shadows of despair. In the crispness of dusk, memories unfurl, tiny hands held tight, dreams set to swirl. Each gust the wind carries echoes of laughter, yet silence envelopes, a heartbeat thereafter. We gather the moments, like fallen leaves bright, in the tapestry woven of day and night. Each fluttering fragment a story untold - of futures imagined, of warmth to behold. So we hear their spirits, in soft tender ways, in the rustle of branches, in sunlight warm rays. As the seasons keep turning our love will remain - a bend never broken through joy and through pain.



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 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.

