



# BETHESDA BEACON

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | March 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends and members of Bethesda,

Ash Wednesday is around the corner and Lent is almost here. Historically this is a time in which the Church prepares itself for the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Usually the Church would take this time to prepare baptismal candidates, encourage people to fast and pray, and to meditate on the Gospel account of Christ's journey toward the Cross.

All this is good and right. And, yet, nevertheless, there is the question whether we can truly prepare for Easter. If God offers us life beyond what's imaginable, then can we really prepare for it?

The original disciples were certainly not prepared for Jesus Christ to rise from the dead, especially after his crucifixion. Even though Christ told them repeatedly that He would die and rise, even though they followed Him, the disciples were still not ready for the great surprise of resurrection.

Right now, as we move into Lent, I encourage you to pray, fast, read Scripture, reflect on your mortality and baptism. I encourage to do whatever you can to live faithfully in this season. However, I also want you to be open to the possibility that what God is doing might not be something you can expect or prepare for at all. This Easter season, the God of Jesus Christ may work something within your life in a way that will be a surprise.

God bless you, Rev David Priddy

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# Celebrations & Concerns

# March Birthdays



Congratulations to Amanda and Dakota Roberson on the birth of their son Nash Schuyler. Nash was born February 15. He was 19.75" and 7 lbs 14 oz. Proud big sister Sawyer and Gramma Lynn Dworak could not be happier.

Congratulations to the Motes family on the birth of Noelle Lois Motes. Noelle was born February 21, weighing 7 lbs 7 oz and was 20". Proud parents are Josh and Caroline. Siblings are Isabella and Aaron.

Welcome to the world little ones!



Prayers and sympathy to Nancy Dearborn, family, and friends upon the passing of Chuck Dearborn on February 4. A memorial service will be held for Chuck within our 11 o'clock worship service on April 6.

- 1 Rowan Priddy
- 2 Sally Noyes
- 6 Chris Lee
- 7 Beth Morgan
- 8 Madelyn Priddy
- 9 Rev. David Priddy
- 10 Peggy Jacobs
- 11 Jesse Andersen
- 13 Dene Moon
- 15 Grant Martin
- 16 Joyce Robinson
- 17 Vance Crane  
Ron Long
- 18 Jasper Ardinger
- 21 Luis Pages  
Mimi Pages
- 22 Henry Cunningham
- 23 Jeff Hill  
Melinda Gooden
- 28 Tim Wilson  
Becky Brown

# Music Notes

As we move to the season of Lent, our music will become more introspective and penitent. This liturgical season presents all of us with a time to examine ourselves, our relationship with God and our church. Hopefully, music will encourage this journey of self-introspection.

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recent illness. It is with your help that I am getting stronger. A huge thank you to Gloria Crane for stepping in and playing for the choir and church. It is comforting to know that she is not only capable but willing to share her talents at a moment's notice.

Blessings,

Earlene

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## Christian Care

The Christian Care committee would like to thank everyone for contributing to our pillow drive on Superbowl Sunday. You donated 70 pillows for Family Promise along with cleaning supplies. This is an ongoing mission so feel free to donate anytime and we will distribute. If you have any questions please contact Terri Combs.

# 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.

# Youth Update

Do you realize two months of the year have already ended and now we enter March and hoping means warmer days and longer days of daylight. In two months, the Youth Sunday School class continues to read the book of Acts. So far, we have made it through the first 16 chapters. Instead of a synopsis of what we have read, I will give you a few questions/ thoughts to ponder for you can go and read it as well.

1. Who do the disciples choose to replace Judas? And how?
2. Did you know King David prophesied the coming of Jesus and what will happen? Read Ch. 2, as you read Acts do you notice that the disciples/apostles recite the Old Testament. This indicates the importance of reading and understanding the Old Testament.
3. Who is Gamaliel?
4. Who was the first martyr? Who else was there?
5. What can we learn from Phillip and his teaching of the Ethiopian? How to tell others about Jesus? We might need to be more like Phillip.
6. How would you have responded if God told you like he did Ananias to go to Saul a known enemy to you? If you were one of the disciples when Saul was brought to you?
7. Do you find it hard to think God can use people like Saul to do his work?
8. Tabitha, a disciple: Why do you think Luke made sure he tells about her as well as the paralytic man?
9. Why do you think God used the vision of the blanket and animals to teach Peter?
10. Bar-Jesus: A false prophet. Are there any false prophets today?
11. What happened to Paul and Barnabas while they were in Lystra? Why did they not like it? Do we as a society behave like Lycaonian's? Worship people/idols?
12. After Paul was stoned? What did he do? What did the disciples do?

These are just a few questions to look at as you read, there is much more that Luke has wrote to us learn about. So, start reading, you might learn something new.

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday March 29, the next Henster Adventure. Clues to follow.

Keep Your Light Shining!! Henster

# Evangelism

We have resumed the questions of the Heidelberg Catechism during the Sunday services.

A little background: "The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563. Conceived originally as a teaching instrument to promote religious unity in the Palatinate, the catechism, in the form of questions and answers, soon became a guide for preaching as well. It is a remarkably warm-hearted and personalized confession of faith, eminently deserving of its popularity among Reformed churches to the present day."

The Heidelberg Catechism is composed of three parts: Misery, Deliverance and Gratitude. As we resume, we resume the questions we are in the Part Two-Deliverance. Please reflect upon and enjoy this most wonderful exploration of one of our church's foundational documents.

As part of our Evangelism Outreach, the committee is sponsoring a "Date Night" for our Merry Hearts Preschool families on Friday, March 14. We are looking for volunteers to help us make the event successful. If you wish to volunteer, contact the church office. The details are below. Merry Hearts families may sign up to participate here: [Bethesda Presbyterian Church: Merry Hearts Parents' Night Out \(Date Night\)](#)

Bethesda Church's Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Parents' Night Out for our Merry Hearts Families.



**Bethesda**  
Presbyterian Church

**Date Night**  
March 14, 5-8 pm  
Childcare provided by  
Bethesda Church and the  
Evangelism Committee

[Bethesda Presbyterian Church: Merry Hearts Parents' Night Out \(Date Night\)](#)

1002 N Sandhills Blvd  
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bethesdapres@ncrrbiz.com

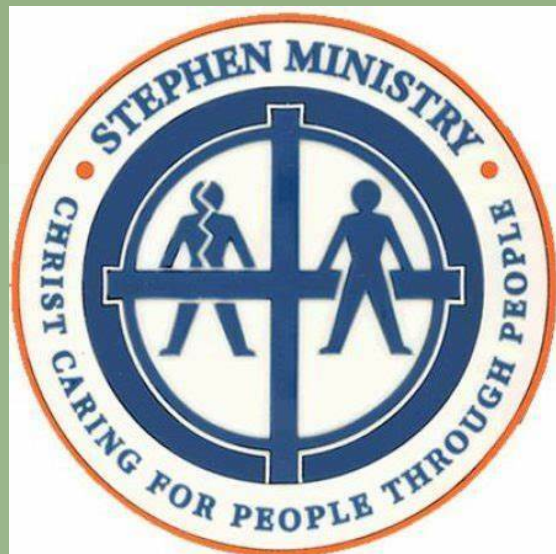


Kids ages 3 (potty trained) through 7 can come to the Fellowship Hall for dinner, activities, and a movie. Nursery services for younger children will also be provided.

Drop off is at 5 pm and kids can be picked up anytime before 8 pm.

Slots are limited. Sign up today!

# Stephen Ministry



Our Stephen Ministry training begins this week. We ask you to keep our trainers in your prayers as they'll be equipping our Stephen Minister trainees with the foundations of bringing Christ's care to hurting people.

This week our Stephen Minister trainees will be studying "The Person the Caregiver," and receiving an introduction to the training ahead of them. During the remainder of the March, the Stephen Minister trainees will be learning about "The Art of Listening," an essential part of the Stephen Ministry; and "Distinctively Christian Caring," focusing on the essentials of using their Christian faith in caring for hurting people. They will also be learning practical ways to live out the reality that a "Stephen Minister is the caregiver and God is the caregiver."

# Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Join us for pancakes, games, cake, and fun starting at 6 pm, Tuesday, March 4.

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

At Page Memorial UMC. March 5, 6:30 pm. Pastor Priddy will be preaching. Our friends at Page have invited us to supper at 5:45 pm in their Fellowship Hall. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

## **Faith Weaving Friends**

March 21 starting at 5:30 for kids 2nd-5th grade. Dinner provided.

## **Bethesda Christian Crafters**

Will hold a sewing event Thurs. March 6 from 1 to 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share, scissors, and sewing machine if you can.

## **Evangelism Sponsored Date Night for Merry Hearts**

March 14 - 5-8 pm

## **Gifts of Women Sunday**

March 16 - Guest preacher Rev. Catherine Helms

## **Chili and Bingo Night**

March 22 more information will be coming

## **Session and Deacons Meetings**

March 23 at 4 and 6 pm, respectively. Note the change in date.

## **Merry Hearts Preschool Sunday**

March 30 - kids will sing at the 11 o'clock worship service. Please plan to join the families for lunch and view their art show in the Fellowship Hall after the service.



# Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes



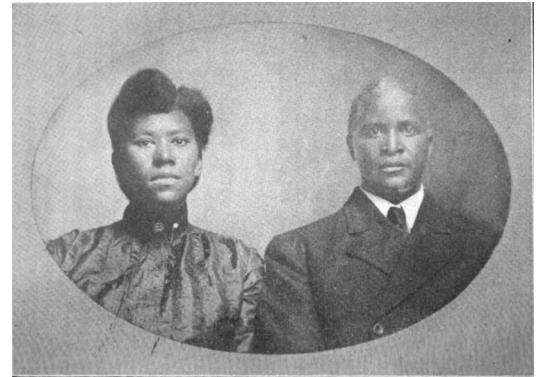
## 2025 College Scholarship Application Bethesda Presbyterian Church

College Scholarship Applications are available on the church website. Please adhere to all requirements and deadlines. All Scholarships are due by March 31.

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## History Corner

### Faith Presbyterian Church

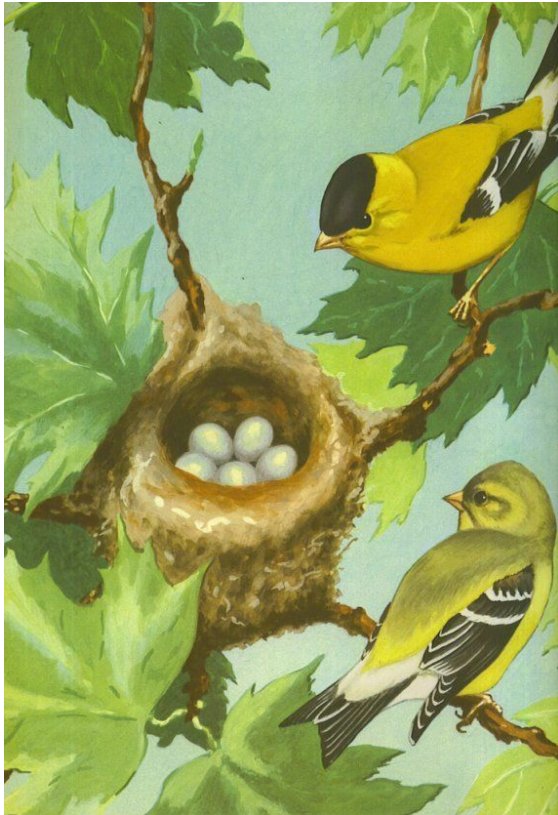


WILLIAM JONES RANKIN AND WIFE

The second official pastor of Faith Church was William Jones Rankin. Dr. Rankin's mind turned toward the serious matters of religion at an early age. He became a Christian at age 16 and consecrated his life to the ministry. Born in Elmwood in Iredell Co. on July 1, 1862, Rankin grew up on a farm and started his schooling in Elmwood. He attracted the attention of his pastor who later moved to Salisbury and sponsored a young Rankin at a parochial school there for two years. He then did his preparatory work at Biddle University and later his College and Theological courses at Lincoln University where he earned his AB degree in 1889 and his STB and AM degrees in 1892. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred by Biddle University in June, 1911.

On April 27, 1893 he married Miss Mattie Elizabeth Cooper. She was educated at Petersburg and happily entered into the plans of her husband. On completion of his work at Lincoln University, Rev. Rankin was called to the Presbyterian Church at Laurinburg which he served for two years. In 1894 he moved to Aberdeen to take up the work at Faith Church. The young couple realized the lack of facilities for education of Black children and began a school out of their home. There will be more on this influential couple next month.

# Back Page



## ***Good Bye - Winter!***

*Good bye, winter!  
Spring is in the air.  
Flowers are in bloom.  
You see colors everywhere.  
Birds build their nest  
in branches way up high.  
But out my window, that  
loud bird woke me up  
again.....sigh!*

written by: Becky Spence

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### **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.

