



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | May 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends and members at Bethesda Presbyterian or wherever you are,

Happy Eastertide. During this time, Bethesda is reading through some of the recommended readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. Many of the readings are drawn from Israel's great hymnbook, the Psalms.

This first Sunday in May we are encouraged to read Psalm 30. I invite you to read the entirety of the Psalm, though here are a few verses to consider:

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (v. 5)

"You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy" (v. 11)

If these two verses are a clue as to what Easter is about—what life in the presence of the Risen Christ is about—then it is about reversal. Life following Jesus is not life that continues in the same old direction. It is life that moves from night to dawn, weeping to joy, mourning to dancing, death to Resurrection.

This is why we follow Jesus. This is why we gather as a Church. This is why we do what we do. We believe that in Jesus Christ the Creator is getting a hold of us in a fresh, creative way. This season, pray for reversals at Bethesda and in our own lives. Where there is mourning, pray for dancing. Where there is night, pray for dawn. Where there is a Cross, pray for Resurrection.

Easter is a reminder that the God of life is listening.

In Christ and brotherly love,

Rev David Priddy

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# Celebrations & Concerns

## May

## Birthdays

Please keep the family of **Bob Armswood** in your prayers. Bob passed away April 18 at the age of 86.

April was a very busy month at Bethesda!

There was an **Easter Egg Hunt** during Family Fun Night on the 6th.

We had a record turn out for our **Blood Drive** on the 7th. Merry Hearts held their annual **Zoophonics Parade** on the 9th.

Our **Busy Bee Card Makers** met on the 12th to make Easter cards.

Our Women of the Church hosted a tour of Old Bethesda after our **Palm/Passion Sunday** where the story from the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem through His crucifixion was told.

**Holy Week** services included a Maundy Thursday service with communion where many of our friends from Page UMC joined us. A Good Friday Tenebrae followed where we quietly entered the shadows through the seven last words of Christ before His death and Resurrection.

We celebrated **Easter** morning with a Sunrise service at Old Bethesda Cemetery. It was a beautiful morning where more than 100 people were in attendance.

Easter continued with a wonderful breakfast spread; thank you to everyone who brought food to share. Easter concluded with our 11 o'clock worship service with communion where Moore Brass helped us celebrate the resurrection.

We had a **Spring Campus Cleanup** on the 26th

Parker Lou Dalmaso was **baptized** during the worship service on the 27th.

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 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        |
| 24 | Jean Snively       |
| 26 | Trinity Andersen   |
| 28 | Jackson Smith      |
|    | (John) David Keith |
| 29 | Sam Smithson       |
| 30 | Mike Pace          |
| 31 | Michael Miller     |



# Photos from April





# 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.

**NOTE: The kids' Sunday School classes and the Parlor Class will break for Summer starting May 25. No nursery during Sunday School over the summer.**



# Music Notes

Thank you to all who made Lent and Easter a special celebration. The talent at Bethesda continues to amaze me. The children learn so quickly as does the bell and chancel choir. A special thanks you to Katherine Stuber for singing the Lord's Prayer. It was not only beautiful but reverent. I have accompanied many singers over the years but never one who sang with more clarity, control, and meaning. I am very grateful for and proud of the music that was presented to the Glory of God during these two important liturgical seasons. As we move forward, the choir will stay in the loft through Pentecost and then take the summer off. If you would like to present special music during the summer, please see me. Our anthems until Pentecost will be general in nature but still tell the Easter story.

Blessings Earlene

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Handcrafted pillowcases will be for sale after church May 4! \$10 for one or \$15 for a pair. All proceeds go back to buying supplies for the crafters.

The Christian Crafters will be having another sewing event on Wednesday, May 14th 1p.m. to 4p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If you're interested in joining our group please contact Leslie. Although we need more sewers there's a job for everyone.

Peace,  
Leslie Champion  
910 220 1616

## Bethesda Christian Crafters

# Evangelism

As we return to our study of the Heidelberg Catechism, a little refresher is in order. A Catechism is defined as “a summary of the principles of a Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians. In the 16th century after almost 50 years of “hap hazard” religious instruction, Fredrick III of Palatine (Germany) decided to formally incorporate the Nicene Creed, Apostles’ Creed, Athabaskan Creed and Calcedonian Creed into a doctrine for Christian education. This first Catechism, the Heidelberg Confession, takes the form of a series of questions and answers for teaching the Christian doctrine.

In reality, the Heidelberg Catechism is delivering the message that Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God but also gave his life as a sacrifice for our sins.

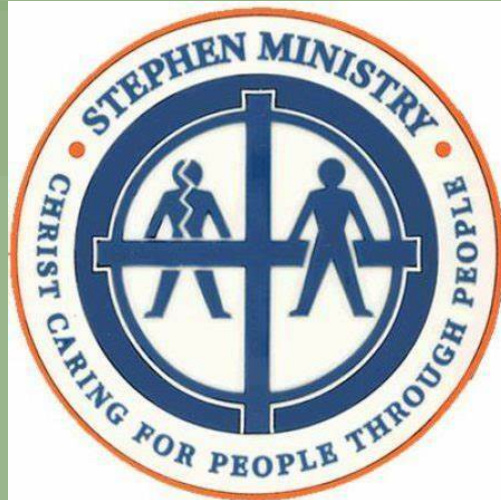
Our Bethesda Women hosted a walking tour at Old Bethesda Cemetery on April 13. The event was very well attended. We thank David Keith for being our guide for the tour and everyone who participated. Special thanks to Jacques Wood for capturing some pictures from the event.

## Presbyterian Women





# Stephen Ministry



The good news is the training of a new cohort of Stephen Ministers for Bethesda is still on track. By the end of May, four newly trained Stephen Ministers will have completed 50 hours of training and be ready for commissioning. We are also in the process of setting up 50 hours of training for an additional Stephen Leader. This will occur over the summer. It is planned to have a joint commissioning ceremony in the fall. At which time we will have a fully functioning Stephen Ministry

We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainers and the cohort group, and our new Stephen Leader in your prayers as they teach/learn the practical ways to live out the reality that a Stephen Minister is the "Caregiver" with God as the "Curegiver."



The Scholarship Committee Met in April and dispersed \$16,080 in Scholarships to those who applied.

**The Burlingame Scholarship** was awarded to Mason Roth.

**The McKeithen Scholarship** was given to Charlie Hill, Jackson Hill, Cullen Martin, Tucker Martin, Connor Morgan, and Natalie Patton.

**The Mona Kahl Scholarship** went to Mason Roth, Charlie Hill, Jackson Hill, Somer Lee, Cullen Martin, Tucker Martin, Connor Morgan, Torre Nordgren, and Natalie Patton.

**Congratulations to all of these students. We are so very proud of you!**

# Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes

## **Communion Sunday**

May 4, 11 o'clock worship service

## **Family Fun Night**

May 4, 4:30 pm

## **Sunday Morning Fellowship Breakfasts and Childrens and Parlor Sunday School classes**

will be on hiatus beginning May 25th (Memorial Day weekend) through September 7th (Rally Day) and will resume September 14th.

## **There will be NO Session or Deacons Meetings in May**

## **Ascension Service**

Sunday June 1, with Communion

## **The Christian Care Committee**

will meet after worship on June 1. Anyone interested in Bethesda missions. including Food Pantry, Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, or No Child Left Behind please plan to attend.

All are welcome.

## **Pentecost Sunday/Youth and Graduation Sunday**

June 8 - Wear **RED** to church

Please let the office know if you have a graduate in your family so we can recongize them.

## **VBS Set Up Begins**

June 16 - Decorators Needed contact Mary Katherine or Brittany if interested.

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

June 23, 10-2:30

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) Sponsor Code BPC



# Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes



We still need LARGE boxes! Volunteer decorators also needed.

Visit our Amazon wish list

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## Faith Presbyterian Church



Rather than a historical perspective this month, we will be updating you on the current progress of the restoration and preservation process.

Our new five-member board has been formed and had their first meeting. Unfortunately, we lost one of the sons of Faith Church who was going to be a board member. Henry McNeill sadly passed away in April. He was a true pastor and exemplified those who were reared in the old Faith Church. His stories and guidance will be missed. The Board consists of Sharon Murphy, Cindy Nicholson, Maurice Holland, Jr., Frank McNeill, Jr., and David Hudson.

There are many companies, individuals, and groups who have been volunteering their time and skills to help in the restoration and preservation process. We appreciate them all. As you can see in the picture above, the old concrete walk was removed, new grass has been planted, and the sign has been put into place. Irrigation was installed for the front lawn. We have a group of hobbyists who have been refinishing furniture in the building and recreating the woodwork that once existed. Cleaning and painting is an ongoing process where we often find interesting discoveries. The pillars holding up the back chancel area of the building were recently rebuilt using the original materials by a local brick mason. His crew also took down the old chimney from the side of the building. These bricks will be repurposed for a walkway from the parking lot to the front steps. The chancel area is in the process of a complete overhaul. This week, water damaged boards were removed, debris was cleared from above the ceiling, and the windows are being reglazed. Until we can secure grant money for some of the bigger items that need to be accomplished, all projects are being funded through donations. If you wish to help, or make a tax-deductible donation, please speak to Julie.

# History

## ***The Pilot***

***May 8, 1958***

Circle 2 of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Women of the Church met Monday night. Mrs. Dan S. Ray conducted the Bible study and Mrs. Wayland Blue presented the program article from Presbyterian Survey magazine. Mrs. Avery Evans presided over the business session during with the group voted to send a junior to camp.

*submitted by: Shaw Ray*



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<https://bethesdapres.church>

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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.

