



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Bethesda Presbyterian Church,
Greetings and best wishes as the summer unofficially begins.

In the life of the Church, the month of June begins with the celebration of Christ's ascension into heaven. At the start of the book of Acts, we read that Jesus was "taken up" into heaven. If you are familiar with the Old Testament, then you likely remember two other figures who were taken up into heaven, the mysterious Enoch in Genesis and the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings. In all these Scriptures, the language is nearly identical. God takes up a human life into the divine presence.

What are we to make of all of this? First, what these "takenings" suggest is that God truly desires fellowship with humanity. God wants more (not less!) than to save humanity. He yearns for humanity to come into fellowship with the divine life. Second, God doesn't want only patriarchs and prophets. He wants all of us. Christ's ascension is not His alone. He represents all humanity. He stands for you and me.

What this all means is that we do not have to batter down the gates of heaven or live a perfect life or achieve great things to earn a place in God's kingdom. God wants to take us into His presence.

This is the message the Church is tasked to share, and I pray it is a message you will think about in this season.

With love and prayer,
Rev. David Priddy

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The Beacon will be abbreviated during the summer months.

June Birthdays



We welcomed new members Teresea Numbers and Shirley Edie to the congregation in May.



The Merry Hearts Preschool had their promotion and graduation ceremony May 22



- 1 Michelle Martin
Mia Smithson
- 2 Bailey Pages Gaspari
- 4 Elias Ough
- 8 John McInnis
- 11 Sandy McLaughlin
- 14 Elizabeth Wilson
- 15 Doug Lawrie
Harper Jessup
- 18 Christian Crumpton
- 19 David McNeill
- 21 Jim Donathan
- 25 Peggy Jones
- 28 Julie Formanski
Kara Patton
- 29 Cynthia Leach
Lori DeSpain

Evangelism

Wikipedia defines evangelism as: “the act of sharing the Christian gospel, the message and teachings of Jesus Christ. It is typically done with the intention of converting others to Christianity. Evangelism can take several forms, such as personal conversations, preaching, media, and is especially associated with missionary work.”

The spirit and significance of Evangelism can be seen, and is at the forefront of, the election of a new Pope for the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV. During the inauguration ceremony, which takes place during a mass in St. Peter's Square, the new pontiff is formally bestowed with a Pallium. It is placed on his shoulders before the mass. The pallium is a strip of lambswool which represents his role as a Shepherd. Taking care of and growing (through evangelism) the flock. The new pope is also presented the Fisherman's Ring (Piscatory Ring), named in honor of the first pope, St. Peter, who was a fisherman by trade. Until recently it featured a bas-relief of Peter fishing from a boat, a symbolism derived from the tradition that the apostles were “fishers of men” (Evangelism - Mark 1:17).

Stephen Ministry

Congratulations are in order. We have four individuals who have successfully completed the required 50 hours of training to become Stephen Minister. Our new care givers are Jane McInnis, Teresa Numbers, Marilyn Sherwin, and Susan Wiener. They will be formally commissioned in October.

The commissioning delay is driven by the requirement to complete the training of a Stephen Ministry Leader, who will, among other duties, serve as our Referrals Coordinator, and Stephen Ministry Small Supervision Group Facilitator. The Stephen Ministry Leader requires a 50-hour training program. The Stephen Ministry Small Supervision Group Facilitator requires a 10-hour training program. Both are required to formally restart the Bethesda Stephen Minister ministry, and will be completed over the summer.

As such, all Stephen Ministry positions will be commissioned in a combined commissioning ceremony in October.

Music Notes

The Chancel choir will sing through Pentecost, June 8th. After that I will be asking some of you to provide special music. I hope that we have a variety of people come forward. I wish for each of you a restful and happy summer vacation. Take time to look around and see the many wonders that God has provided for us to enjoy. See you in church.

Blessings,

Earlene

Leslie Champion will help run the Youth Group on July 20th. The Crafters and the Youth will work together to make backpacks and pillowcases for the upcoming Operation Christmas Child for Samaritans Purse. We hope the youth will attend!

Bethesda Christian Crafters

Opportunities, Initiatives, & Administrative Notes

Sunday Morning Fellowship Breakfasts and Childrens and Parlor Sunday School classes

will be on hiatus through September 7th (Rally Day) and will resume
September 14th.

Ascension Service with Communion

June 1 , 11 o'clock worship service

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 Sponsor Code BPC



VBS Amazon Wishlist: <https://bit.ly/bpcvbs25>

Sign Up Genius: <http://bit.ly/vbsfood25>

Faith Presbyterian Church



In January, 1903, Robert and Flora Page sold a 5 acre parcel of land to the Trustees of Faith United Presbyterian Church for \$125. This land, located at Bethesda Ave and Pee Dee Rd in Aberdeen, was then parceled and sold to members of the church on which to build homes. The lots were sold as covenant properities. No family could sell their home and land without permission and approval of the Trustees and all the families in the community. The families were prominent members in the church and now lived within walking distance. The manse was also constructed at this time. Pastor William Rankin and his wife were the first to live in the manse built by the church with the monetary help of the Board of Missions. Mrs. Rankin taught school out of this house until the demand for education became so great that they built Sarah Lincoln Academy nearby. There are descendants of these families that still own property in this community.

Update on restoration process: The back wall of the sanctuary has been completed. Replications of the original pediments have been cut, painted, and installed. We are grateful to all our volunteers. The chancel area is the next focus. We are nearing completion of this phase as well. The area suffered severe water damage from a roof leak. The chancel roof has been replaced and the brick pillars reworked to support it. The walls have been scraped and painted and the ceiling repaired. As always, we welcome donations which will help continue our preservation of this historic building and story.

Moore County News

May 21, 1925 - Manley, NC

John W. Phillips, 1861-1925 - Our town was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Mr. John W. Phillips Saturday morning about nine o'clock. Mr. Phillips was working in the field near his house when it was noticed that he had fallen. When help reached him, he was dead. Mr. Phillips was in his sixty-fifth year. He was born March 21, 1861, at Carthage. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Phillips. His education was received at Old Union School, and on November 10, 1892 he was married to Miss Christian Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shaw, of Manley. Mrs. Phillips died on May 9, 1919. Mr. Phillips was a good neighbor and was held in the highest esteem throughout the community as was shown by the number of people present at the funeral and by the many beautiful floral offerings. He will be greatly missed by his friends. The funeral services were conducted at Bethesda Church Sunday afternoon at five o'clock by Rev. M. D. McNeill of Cameron who was a classmate of Mr. Phillips at Union School, and Rev. Gaston of Aberdeen.

submitted by: Shaw Ray



Aberdeen, NC 28315

<https://bethesdapres.church>

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

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Summer Sunday Schedule

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

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

