



BETHESDA BEACON

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | July 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends and members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, This month we are having Vacation Bible School and spending some time on Sunday morning going through a sermon series on the book of Esther. In other words, we are using our summertime as a season of deepening our understanding of Scripture.

Often times, summer is a time to kick back and relax or have some time a way. If anything we are redoubling our focus on the Bible with a hope to hear God's word. I hope and pray you also will double down on your commitment to reading the Word this summer.

Psalm 119:97 says, "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long."

This summer may God grant you a love for His Word.

Blessings,

Rev David Priddy

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July Birthdays

Family Promise Update:

Our next opportunity to serve Family Promise is July 27th through July 30th. Please contact LoJuanna if you'd like to help! If you are unable to stay overnight or provide a meal, perhaps you could donate some supplies. Items needed at this time are Pine Sol or Mr.Clean floor cleaner, and white waterproof shower curtain liners, size 72 x 72 and 72 x 78. Shower curtain hoops for hanging. Leave in the narthex or church office. Thank you.



- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Sarah DeSpain |
| 2 | Amy Hand |
| 3 | Somer Lee |
| 7 | Evelyn Patton |
| 8 | Terry Carpenter |
| 12 | Jacques Wood |
| 13 | Cullen Martin |
| 15 | Rick Noyes |
| | Hannah Ough |
| 17 | Cathy White |
| 18 | Laura Hill |
| 20 | LoJuanna Pages |
| | Bill Ficklin |
| 24 | Doug Williams |
| 25 | Sharon Fogleman |
| | Leah Proctor |
| 27 | Taylor Wynn |
| 28 | Molly McCain |
| | Reggie Smith |
| 29 | Sadie Ransdell |
| | Susan McNeill |



Christmas in July:

Reminder, we will be supporting Southern Middle and Crains Creek this Christmas. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please put Mission: No Child Left Behind, Christmas on the memo of your donation. Thank you for supporting our local youth.

Prayers and Sympathy: To the families of Hugh Joyce and Jere McKeithen who both recently passed away.





Adventure awaits at Bethesda Presbyterian Church's Rainforest Falls VBS!

Step into a world bursting with colors, creatures, roaring waterfalls, and towering trees! At Rainforest Falls VBS, every day is a brand-new expedition filled with excitement, fun, and unforgettable discoveries. Kids will explore powerful Bible stories, grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and dive into hands-on activities that make learning about God an unforgettable journey.

Grab your gear, invite your friends, and join us for a week of faith, fun, and adventures you won't want to miss!



Bethesda Presbyterian Church
1002 N. Sandhills Blvd.
Aberdeen, NC 28315

DINNER WILL BE SERVED!

Enjoy dinner, a Bible story, music, crafts, games, STEM activities & more!



REGISTER NOW:

<https://bethesdapres.church>



Register online: <https://bethesdapres.church> or call the church office, 910-944-1319 for a hard copy.

VBS is for children age 3 yrs - 12th grade. Nursery is available for children 2 yrs and under. An adult VBS is also offered. Call the church office for details.



To get a taste of what this year's VBS will look like, watch the video below!

VBS STARTS TODAY

RAINFOREST FALLS - BETHESDA STYLE

Youth Update

During the summer, the youth are still meeting every Sunday morning for Sunday School. The goal is to finish the book of Psalms by the time my two graduates, Maddie and Trinity head off to college. It seemed like it took the whole class to read chapter 119 (the longest chapter in the Bible, 176 verses). As we read, some interesting questions and the way we look at what David and the other authors wrote. We get to feel what they were feeling. A more interesting way to read them and the Bible is we use different versions, NIV and the KJV. This way get a different perspective on the translation. The next big question is what will we be studying next? I will be the judge of that.

This past June, we went back to Starworks and took along the guys. We got to be creative again by making salt and pepper shakers and some of us got a little more creative and made some other things. After leaving there, we went to use our math skills (geometry) and played putt putt at Wee Pines. We had a ball but it did get a little toasty. We finished off the day and to celebrate our two graduates by eating at Pizza Café. Everyone left full on pizza and salad. A good time was had by all. Just maybe, I can come up with one more Henster Adventure before my graduates head off.

Keep Your Light Shining!!!

Henry

Youth Update



© J. Henry Hogan

© J. Henry Hogan

Music Notes



A big thank you to all who participated in Youth Sunday. It was well presented and your music was great. Also a big thank you to Rick Noyes for his selection. Rick is a pleasure to work with and is always willing to help. He did an excellent job and I was glad to see him convey his love of singing through his selection. The quartet, Jim Ransdale, Rick Noyes, Julie Formanski, and Mikaela Priddy did a wonderful job singing and setting up our Patriotic salute. Their harmony was smooth and the singing of God Bless America was stirring. Irvin Berlin's message is a prayer that we certainly need today. Enjoy Your summer.

Earlene



July 6-10 - Vacation Bible School

July 12 - VBS Showcase during worship

July 19 - Session and Deacons Meetings at 4 and 6 pm, respectively

There will be no Sunday morning breakfast or children's Sunday School during the summer months. The Parlor Class is also on hiatus. Nursery will be available for the worship service only.

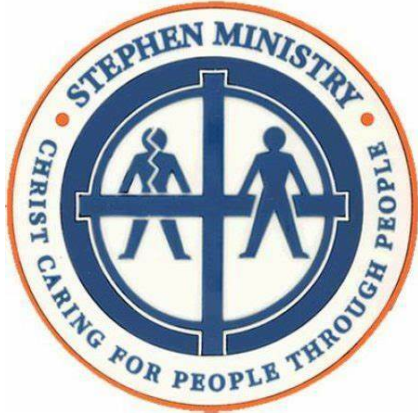
Presbyterian Women

From the PWC Leadership Team: We would like to thank all who participated in our Birthday Offering Event. Over \$800 was raised to send to missions, and over \$400 from the bake sale to stay in Bethesda for local needs. The luncheon was enjoyed by all who attended, and the generosity of those who donated home-baked goodies was so appreciated. Our next projects include a "Ladies' Fellowship Auction" (stay tuned for details), and an "Olde Time Hymn-Sing" at Old Bethesda in the Fall. If you are interested in participating in the planning or working with us, contact Janet Peele. The team meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Stephen Ministry



Have you every considered serving as a Stephen Minister? It is a rewarding mission that helps hurting people. It also increases your own spirituality. Consider some frequently asked questions:

How much of my time will really be involved? There are 50 hours of training. As a Stephen Minister you will visit about once a week (for about one hour) with the person you are caring for. You will also attend one meeting a month for supervision and continuing education.

How much money will this cost? There will be no cost to you. The church will pay for the training Manuals (\$50) and provide the instruction.

Will my phone be ringing constantly? No. You will care for one care receiver at a time. If the care receiver were to begin calling too often, you will learn to respond to too many phone calls or excessive demands in a loving, assertive manner. It probably won't arise, though.

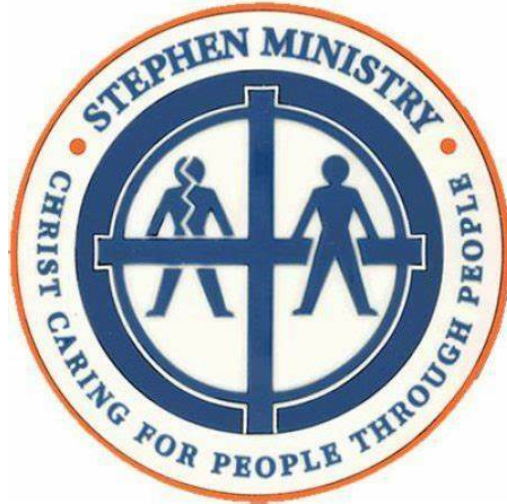
Will the pastors still help and counsel people? Most definitely! Stephen Ministers complement the pastors' ministries and provide even more care to those who need it.

What if I get in over my head, with people who need more care than I can provide? First of all, you will never be knowingly assigned to people who might be in those situations. Second, Stephen Ministry training helps you to know exactly when and how to help your care receiver get professional help when necessary. The Supervision Group, the Stephen Leader, and the pastor are also there to help you to make such decisions.

How will I personally benefit from this experience? You will learn many skills that will be valuable in your personal life as well as in your Stephen Ministry. The satisfaction of serving the Lord through helping another person is a wonderful blessing.

Continued on next page

Stephen Ministry cont.



Do I have to stop being a Stephen Minister after two years? No, many people decide to continue as Stephen Ministers after two years. You and your Stephen Leader will make that decision when the time comes.

Who will be the care receivers? Care receivers are members of this congregation who are experiencing times of special need and occasionally other people within our community who turn to us for help. Thus, Stephen Ministry is a way to reach out to others as well as to care for our own members.

Will the care receiver really want my care? Yes. A pastor or Stephen Leader will meet first with the care receiver. Only after the care receiver understands Stephen Ministry and has agreed to meet with a Stephen Minister will you be contacted.

Are other people as scared as I seem to be about this undertaking? Probably so! But the training will eliminate much of this fear because you will not only learn what to say but also, and more importantly, how to listen.

How do I apply? Fill out the application form (Available from Julie). You will then have an opportunity to meet with Pastor David and/or the Stephen Leader to ask any questions and make your final decision.

Mission/Evangelism

Internal Service

Merry Hearts Preschool

Date Night

Preschool Sunday

Lunch and Art Show

Bethesda Cares Fund

Catechism Study

Lemonade/Hot Chocolate on the Lawn

Fall Auction



Local Benevolences and Service

Faith Church

Page UMC – Good Samaritan Fund Managers

Friend to Friend

Family Promise

Changing Destinies Ministry

Moore Free Clinic

The Food Bank of NC

Transient Fund

Northern Moore Family Resource Center

Pinecrest High, Crains Creek

Middle, Southern Middle Schools

Tambra Place

Camp Monroe

Habitat for Humanity

Community Thanksgiving Lunch



Mission/Evangelism

Worldwide Missions - Malawi

Malawi, Mpambadzi Chipangano
In the rural village of Njumbula

Pastor Peter Kanjaye

Y-Malawi Missions – Walk with a
Village Church Program



Worldwide Missions – United Arab Emirates

Dubai Mission

Forrest Strickland and Family

Seminary teaching to send
others out into the world to
share the Gospel in their native
countries



Ways you can help:

Be an evangelist by sharing the Gospel with those in your life.

Invite someone to church.

Pray for our local missions and service workers.

Pray for our global missionaries and those teaching and sharing the Gospel in the world.

Volunteer to serve at local organizations.

Give to the mission fund at Bethesda to support local and worldwide benevolences.

Faith Church



As we indicated in last month's newsletter, Friends of Faith, Inc. was selected by the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation to receive a grant for a new roof on the historic Faith Church. This work has now been completed! As you can see in the picture, the new roof looks great. Special thanks to Jim Ransdell who assisted with the copper cap that was placed on the top of the steeple.

There is still much work to do at the church including exterior painting, pew refinishing, ceiling repair and painting, and floor restoration.

If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the continued efforts to restore this historic church, please make checks payable to Friends of Faith and send to Bethesda's church office, or you can place your check to Bethesda Church in the offering basket with the designation in the memo line for Old Faith Church.

Online donations may also be made, contact me for details.

Blessings and peace,

Julie



Aberdeen, NC 28315

<https://bethesdapres.church>

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

BPC28315@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule

10:00 Adult Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

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

