



Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC | August 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends and members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, As August comes around, we are wrapping up our sermon series on Esther, recovering from VBS (a success!) and preparing for or starting school. And yet we still have a lot of things in motion: We are planning to completely revamp the Heritage Room at Bethesda. We are updating the AV system in the sanctuary. We are partnering with other churches and missionaries in Malawi and the Middle East. We are also partnering with several local ministries in Moore County.

Rally day kicks off Sunday school and the Chancel Choir returns to the loft near the beginning of September. Homecoming takes place at the end of September with Rev. Tommy Miller (son of Bethesda, ordained at Bethesda) preaching for us. We are about to elect new officers for 2027. We have folks preparing for baptism and membership.

If you would like to get involved or feel moved to contribute in any way please contact the office. Otherwise, keep all these things on your hearts and minds, praying and giving thanks to God. The Holy Spirit is on the move at Bethesda!

Peace and goodness, Rev. David Priddy

what's inside

Message from the Pastor.....	1
August Birthdays.....	2
Announcements.....	2
VBS.....	3-6
Music Notes & Look Ahead.....	7
Presbyterian Women.....	8
Stephen Ministry.....	9
Mission & Evangelism.....	10,11
Faith Church.....	12

August Birthdays

Family Promise Update:

Thank you to everyone who helped with our week at Family Promise. If you were 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.



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.

Celebrations

Please join Kitty Kuzminski in praising God for two new great-grandchildren born this month! On July 9th, Tyler Boone Kuzminski (below left), son of Kevin and Claire Kuzminski and grandson of David, was born in Maryland. On July 14th, Lenore Josephine Goff (below right), daughter of Cameron and Kelli Goff of Hamlet, granddaughter of Keilah Kuzminski Goff, was born. Welcome to the world little ones!



- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Tommie Blue |
| | Avery Jessup |
| 2 | Sierra Huffman |
| | Andrew Formanski |
| | Sherry Wright |
| 5 | David Keith |
| | Frank Holt |
| 6 | Jamie Clarke |
| | Terry Hardison |
| 9 | Jim Mack |
| | Sam Ransdell |
| | Patrick Byers |
| 11 | Christian Blue |
| | Lynn Dworak |
| | Justin Andersen |
| | Brenda Huffman |
| | Carrie Moon |
| 12 | Kelly Clark |
| 14 | Steve Morgan |
| 16 | Mary Lynn Sutphen |
| | Scarlett Roth |
| 17 | Davis Clark |
| | Nancy Gorba |
| 18 | Barb Ficklin |
| | Mark Jessup |
| 20 | Cy Israel |
| | Janet Peele |
| | Nancy Dearborn |
| 21 | Tucker Martin |
| 24 | Jeff Wynn |
| 27 | Birdie Wynn |
| 30 | Shaw Ray |
| 31 | Ella Clark |
| | Gloria Crane |



VBS Wrap Up

Rainforest Falls VBS: A Week to Remember!

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and joy as we look back on an incredible week of Vacation Bible School! Rainforest Falls VBS was filled with fun, adventure, laughter, and opportunities to grow in faith from beginning to end.

Our Fellowship Hall was transformed into a tropical rainforest with towering trees, winding vines, colorful flowers, and lush greenery everywhere you looked. Birds, whirlies, and streamers danced overhead, while a volcano and an old jungle hut peeked through the foliage. Monkeys, toucans, snakes, and tree frogs made appearances along the way, and as children dismissed through the waterfall, they followed the forest path to each of their exciting stations.

Each evening was filled with delicious meals, joyful music, engaging Bible stories, games, crafts, hands-on STEM activities, and meaningful lessons about God's presence and His promises. We are especially thankful to our kitchen crew and the Women's Circles for preparing wonderful meals each night. Your generosity and hard work helped make the week such a blessing.

Throughout the week, children followed Dr. Flit Futterby on her search for a rare butterfly while exploring Bible adventures from the Creation story, David's escape from Saul, the resurrection of Jesus, and John's vision of heaven.

At Recreation Station, children used teamwork to build confidence through games like Sponge Ball, Animal Run, Animal Tag, and Parachute Play. Imagination Station brought Bible stories to life with hands-on activities as kids created butterflies, made clouds, and even extracted chlorophyll from spinach. The Craft Room buzzed with creativity as children made butterfly pillows and decorated toucans with beans and seeds. And, as always, the Music Station was a favorite, filling the church with joyful songs of praise that children continued singing long after VBS had ended.

VBS cont.

While our younger campers explored the rainforest, our youth gathered for a VBS experience designed just for them. They spent the week exploring the nature and character of God through meaningful discussions, activities, and fellowship. We were also pleased to offer an adult Bible study, where Kay Mack once again led an engaging and well-attended class.

One of the week's highlights was our Fellowship Cookout! Even a summer thunderstorm couldn't dampen the fun. A special thank you to the Men of the Church, who grilled a wonderful meal and quickly moved everything indoors when the rain arrived. After dinner (and the storm), children—and plenty of adults—enjoyed chalk art, water balloon battles, and an unforgettable visit from the Aberdeen Fire Department. Two fire trucks transformed the lawn into the ultimate splash zone! They even handed the hose over to a few brave adults, making it a night of laughter, fun, and memories we'll cherish for years to come.

None of this would have been possible without our incredible volunteers, leaders, parents, donors, and supporters. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and servant hearts to make Rainforest Falls VBS such a meaningful week.

We are excited to see how the seeds planted during VBS continue to grow in the hearts of our children and families. Thank you for being part of this wonderful ministry, and until next year, keep exploring God's nature!

Love,

Brittany and Mary Katherine

P.S. Dr. Flutterby did find her butterfly and is now doing conventions across the world explaining how much this particular butterfly with teeth loves cheeseburgers.





Music Notes



July is over and only a short time left before we enter the busy fall season. A big thank you to Kim Clark for her "America the Beautiful." The French Horn is my favorite Brass instrument and it is wonderful to have someone who plays so well and is willing to share. There is nothing like the sound of children's voices and the VBS children made the service special. Thank you VBS children and Mikaela. You as a congregation are one of the best hymn singing congregations that I have had the honor of serving. It is a true joy to hear you sing and to hear the joy in your voices when you sing "Victory in Jesus!" It is an uplifting experience. Finally, Larry and I appreciate all of the prayers and cards that were sent during my covid trip. I know that God answered your prayers and that is why I am recovering. Thank you from both of us. Choir will start August 19th at 6:00 pm; we would welcome anyone who would like to help us serve Bethesda. We work hard and have fun so give us a try.

Blessings, Earlene



August 16 - Congregational Meeting at the conclusion of worship to review some business and to select two members from the congregation at large for the 2027 Nominating Committee. Candidates must be actively involved in the life of the church for a number of years, regularly attending worship services, and supporting the congregation's ministries. Please ask your candidate if they are eligible and willing to serve if nominated and elected.

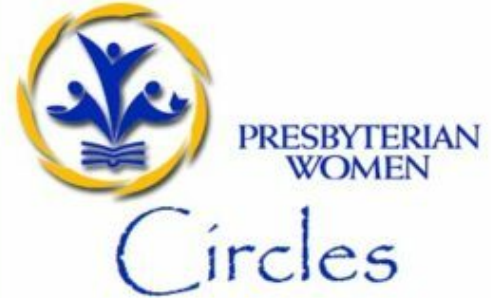
Worship Committee meets after service

Session meets at 4 pm; Deacons Meet at 6 pm

August 19 - Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin at 6 pm. All are welcome.

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



The Presbyterian Women's Circles at Bethesda will be starting back in September. We encourage all women to be involved. If you are interested in joining a circle or finding out more information, you may contact one of the leaders.

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

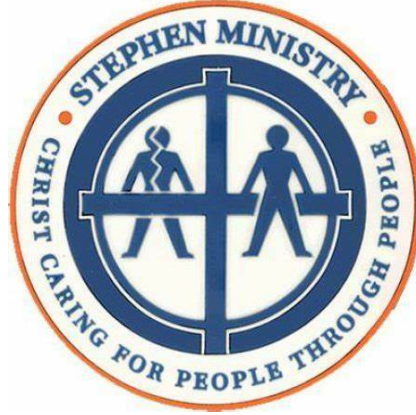
Circle #4

Leader - Linda Parke

910-603-7214

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

Stephen Ministry



Last month we discussed the Frequently Asked Questions about the Stephen Ministry. Fundamentally, being a Stephen Minister is about service.

As Christians, we are all called to service. Biblical service is the act of humbly ministering to God and others out of love and devotion, rather than an obligation or a search for recognition (Galatians 5:13).. This is modeled by Jesus Christ, who stated He came "not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45),

Each and every Christian is gifted by the Spirit to serve, and using these gifts is seen as stewardship of God's grace (1 Peter 4:10). Service is a foundational calling that involves using individual gifts to care for those in need, foster community, and reflect God's grace.

Stephens Ministry is a service about protecting the vulnerable/hurting: The Bible specifically commands care for society's most defenseless groups, such as the poor, the widow, and the orphan (Proverbs 31). The Stephen Ministry is implemented by "men/women of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom." (Acts 6/7)

If you feel the calling to be or the need for, please contact Pastor David or Julie.

Mission/Evangelism

This is an update on our partner church in Malawi named Mpambadzi Chipangano.

The church is doing fine and well. They are now reporting 162 members.

The church has been actively involved in "Transformation Tree", "Families for Life", and "Sunday School" ministries. Through Transformation Tree, members have replaced harmful cultural beliefs with biblical truth and have been encouraged to care for vulnerable people through Seed Projects. Families for Life has strengthened marriages and family relationships by promoting love, respect, and unity among couples. Meanwhile, Sunday School is helping children grow in their faith by learning God's Word, memorizing Bible verses, and developing respect and obedience, laying a strong foundation for godly character.

One of the greatest accomplishments has been the continued growth of their church through discipleship, evangelism, and community outreach. However, they are currently facing the challenge of rebuilding their church building after it was severely damaged by heavy rains. Construction is underway, but they still need resources to complete the roofing before the next rainy season. They are kindly asking for your prayers that God will provide the necessary support to finish this important project.

From the church - Greetings from your family in Malawi! We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your love, prayers, and the wonderful relationship we share with you. We are truly thankful for the words of encouragement you continually send, which have strengthened and inspired our church. Because of God's faithfulness and your partnership, we have witnessed remarkable growth in our congregation. Our church membership is slowly getting increased, and there is a stronger spirit of unity, love, and commitment among our members. Your prayers, and fellowship have been a great blessing to us, and we give God all the glory for what He is doing through this partnership. At this time, we have embarked on rebuilding our church building, which collapsed due to heavy rains. We kindly ask you to continue praying with us that God will provide all the resources needed to complete the construction before the next rainy season begins. We trust that the Lord, who has been faithful thus far, will make a way for this project to be completed for His glory. May the Lord continue to bless you abundantly, your families, and your church as you faithfully serve Him. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we also remember you in ours. Together, we pray that God will use our churches to advance His Kingdom and bring many more people to Christ. With heartfelt appreciation and Christian love, your brothers and sisters in Malawi.

Below: a photo of a Bible study session taking place outside as they presently have no church building.

Below: progress on the church building as they are constructing it.



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

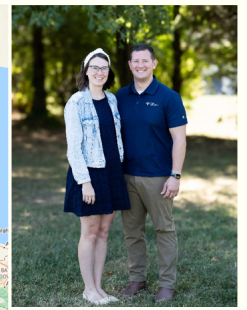
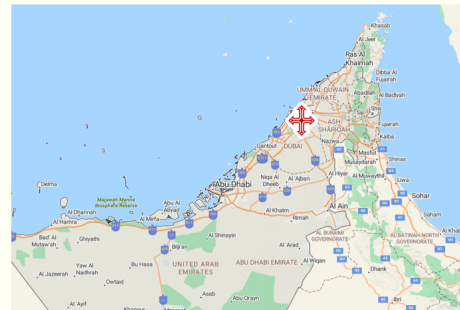


Worldwide Missions – United Arab Emirates

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

Despite the heat of summer, work continues on the Old Faith Church. Exterior painting of one side is complete. We are working our way around to complete the second side now. We've also been busy securing heart pine flooring to patch the areas that need replacing internally, and our volunteers have been working hard to complete the molding for the ceiling. Our Board will meet in August to go over all the updates from the last few months, and discuss the needs for the immediate future.

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.

