

Bethesda Presbyterian Church | Aberdeen, NC |November 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends and members of Bethesda,

October has come and gone and proved to be a busy month.

In Church news, homecoming was a success with Rev. Tommy Miller preaching. We started a sermon series on Colossians, which we will be wrapping up in mid November. We also focused on Stewardship this month, and it's not too late to pledge. Every gift counts and makes and difference! Lastly, we are excited to have three new members, Betty Thomas, and Maddie and Matthew Clark (with two little ones, Sawyer and Natalie).

In personal news, I finally became a full-fledged Presbyterian at the last Presbytery meeting. Thank you for all your support.

Gratefully,

Rev. David Priddy

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November Birthdays

Family Promise Update:

Thank you to everyone who helped with our week of supporting Family Promise. The shelter is in need of new, in-the-package, pillows. Please consider donating some. You may bring them by the church.



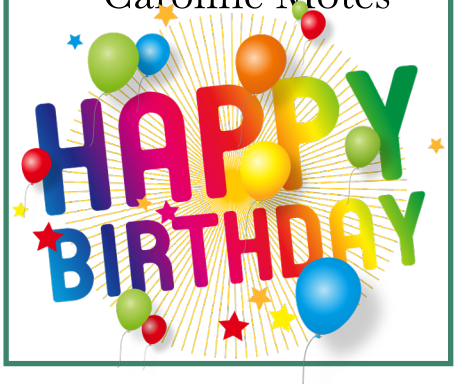
The next planning meeting for the Thanksgiving Day luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 15, in the Jesse Wimberley room immediately after worship. Anyone interested is welcome to join us. Look for the sign-up on the website soon!

Bethesda Presbyterian Women are hosting a Sell-A-Bration Auction for all the women of the church on Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a treasure you'd like to donate to the auction. All proceeds go to the new Heritage Room. RSVP to Carolyn Burns 910.315.5917



Welcome to the Clark Family! Matt, Maddie and their children Sawyer and Natalie joined the church on October 4 during worship.

3	Henry Hogan
	Mike Laswell
5	Palmer Noyes
12	Andy White
	Liam Gradzewicz
13	Aaron Motes
14	Josh Motes
16	Lee Miller
	Ann Litton
17	Christi Conley
20	Isabelle Ough
21	Nate Ardinger
22	Cathy Carpenter
24	Kay Mack
25	Richard McInnis
26	Chrissy Excell
27	Mason Roth
	Natalie Clark
29	Debbie Pace
30	Betsy Mofield
	Sadie Proctor
	Caroline Motes



Music Notes



We are oficially entering the busiest time of the church year. This year Thanksgiving will be the Thursday before the first Sunday of Advent. Children's Choir will start Sunday November 8th at 9:00 AM. We will practice for 30 minutes which allows everyone to go get breakfast before going to Sunday School. They will sing with the chancel choir and alone during Advent and Christmas. Any child between second grade and fifth grade is welcomed to join us. We still need sopranos in chancel choir. Please consider joining and sharing with Bethesda. Every year I have people say that we do not get to sing enough carols or they say that we did not sing their favorite carol. This year we are going to try to sing more carols. During the gathering music each Sunday some of the choir will join me around the piano and we will sing two or three carols. You are welcomed to join us at the piano or sing along in your seat.

The Community Thanksgiving service will be held at Page Memorial November 22 with David preaching and combined choirs. Blessings, Earlene

Looking Ahead...

November Dates to Remember

- Please turn in pledge cards and time and talent sheets to help us budget and prepare for the coming year -

Nov 1 - Reformation/All Saints/All Souls/Communion Sunday - FALL BACK time change

No Family Fun Night

November 8 - Session and Deacons meet at 4 and 6 pm.

November 15 - Bethesda PW Auction in the Fellowship Hall at 2 pm

November 22 - Community Thanksgiving Service at Page UMC, Pastor Priddy will preach

November 26 - Community Thanksgiving Lunch hosted by Bethesda and Page UMC in FH

November 30 - Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall 10-2:30 pm go to redcrossblood.org to register - sponsor code BPC

Youth Update

Family Fun Night took place at Old Bethesda on October 4. There was a great turn-out and fun was had by all!











Trunk or Treat

















Presbyterian Women



RSVP to Carolyn Burns by November 9 - 910.315.5914 cjburns@nc.rr.com

Stephen Ministry

We were recently asked the question: “What is the difference between and the Diaconate and a Stephen Minister?”.

The historical core of the diaconate, originating with St. Stephen’s care of the widows in Jerusalem, is an ordained service. The theological role of the diaconate centers on the concept of diakonia, a Greek term meaning service or ministry. The deacon identifies and serves the vulnerable, marginalized, and suffering individuals in the community. Their theological duty is to ensure the church never separates its spiritual worship from its moral obligation to the poor and disenfranchised. This is codified in the Presbyterian ”’Book of Order 2025-2027”, which states: *“The ministry of Deacons as sent forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this ministry.”*

In the Presbyterian Church, Deacons are ordained for life. However, many churches and denomination do not have a diaconate. Fifty tears ago, recognizing a non-denominational need, as wells a need to bring modern clinical tools to Christian support, pastor and clinical psychologist Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk founded Stephen Ministries in St. Louis as an independent, not-for-profit Christian educational organization. Its main activity is the training of Stephen Leaders who then train Stephen Ministers in their congregation to be capable of accompanying those who are facing some crisis in life. Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have been trained to offer Christian support to people struggling through a difficult time. A Stephen Minister is somebody who’s going to walk beside you during a time of need. They’re going to hold your hand the whole way. If you want to talk, they’ll listen. If you want prayer, they’ll pray. Stephen Ministers are there to listen and care—not to try to ‘fix things’ or tell you what to do. A Stephen Minister is a **CARE GIVER,** God is the **CURE GIVER**. Finally, being non-denominational and fixed term, Stephen Ministers are commissioned.

The answer to the question is that they are the same and they are different. Take solace in the understanding that several of our latest class of ordained Deacons are commissioned Stephen Ministers.

Mission & Evangelism



Update from the Mission Field in the UAE

Forrest Strickland sent and update on the work being done in the UAE training indiviuals to be pastors in their home countries. Here are a few things he shared:

October ended with me preaching at our church here in Dubai. We are going through the book of Psalms chapter-by-chapter, and our two staff pastors were both traveling and asked me to step in. We covered Psalm 12. If you're interested, here is a link. I pray it's encouraging to you.

Our internship is running smoothly. Both of our interns are making great strides in their preparation to go and plant a church back in their home country. They spend about 40 hours a week in study, reading and writing papers. We discuss the reading and their papers for three hours on Wednesday mornings (which is a major part of my role with them). This past week we continued pressing in on how to read and understand the Bible rightly.

At the start of the semester in August, I was given responsibility over one of our teaching locations (we have two in Dubai, one in Abu Dhabi). So I am serving as the primary instructor at one of our Dubai locations, including teaching the majority of classes. In October, I taught 4 hours on the Old Testament for one class, six hours of church history, and 9 hours in our Foundations Year.

On my role at GTS, one thing to pray for is wisdom: a major part of my work is helping GTS take steps forward to grow as an institution for the long-term. What resources do we need to provide as an institution? How can we best partner together with churches for the years to come to work with them to equip pastors and church leaders?

An outgrowth of this teaching is a brief article I wrote for The Gospel Coalition. I pray it's encouraging and edifying, if you read it.

To read the full newsletter from Forrest, you can click here.

Please continue to keep all our missionaries around the world in your prayers.

Presbytery News



On October 3 the full Presbytery of Coastal Carolina met for their fall meeting. Part of the agenda was the examination of Pastor Priddy and the vote by the Presbytery to make bring him into full membership. We had a number of Elders in attendance and some watching online. Pastor David did very well answering all questions posed to him and he was unanimously voted into the Presbytery. We are very proud of all his hard work to obtain this status and are continuously grateful to have him as our pastor.

Presbytery of the
South West

Rev Val Ott, will serve as Moderator of Presbytery of the South West in Glasgow, Scotland for the 2026–2027 session. Val is the minister of Gatehouse and Borgue linked with Tarff and Twynholm. Val was the last intern from Scotland to serve Bethesda. She served our church from 1999-2000.



Faith Church



October was a busy month at the old Faith Church! On October 10, the NC Presbyterian Historical Society came for a talk and tour of both Old Bethesda and Faith Church. We had a good turn out and everyone was pleased to learn more about these historic churches and their connection to each other. On October 18, Brownson Presbyterian's Youth Group came to Faith and helped us with some projects. They painted the sign posts, the cemetery rails, and the foundation brick skirting. The boys also helped set up the scaffolding inside the church so we could begin the ceiling repair and painting process. On October 24, a small contingent from Brownson's Handymen Group came to help with some additional projects. They installed our foundation vents, spread sand/clay around the foundation to help with drainage, and extended our brick walkway. We are so grateful for all the help and support! Brownson was started out of Bethesda; we all share the same history. For more information and to see pictures of these projects, visit our website at www.FaithHistoricChurch.org

Online tax-deductible donations may be made on our website or scan the QR code here!

All proceeds go directly into the project.

Blessings and peace,

Julie

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https://bethesdapres.church

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Sunday Schedule

10:00 Adult Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

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

