

Bethesda



Beacon

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FEBRUARY 2026

We're Going to the ECO National Gathering in Atlanta!

February 2–5, 2026 | *Atlanta Marriott Marquis*

One of the joys of life in Christ and life in ministry is gathering together...to worship, learn, laugh, and grow. This year, we're excited to share that **Brent, Hannah, and I** will be representing our church at the **ECO National Gathering** in Atlanta, February 2–5. This happens every year and this year will include our Synod business meeting (the denominational wide meeting that happens every other year).

The National Gathering is more than a big meeting on someone's calendar. It's a heartbeat of our broader church family. It's an annual time when pastors, elders, lay leaders, spouses, students, and church staff come together in fellowship, praise, and formation. Think of it as a *recharge station for the soul* and a *family reunion for our faith* all wrapped into one.

This year's theme comes straight from **Esther 4:14**:

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

As we step into a world that feels increasingly uncertain and changing by the day, these words remind us that God has placed each of us—distinctly, intentionally, lovingly—*exactly where we are for a purpose*. Just like Esther, we're invited to lean into courage, faith, and obedience in the places God has called us.

So, what happens at the Gathering?

Here's a peek at what makes this week meaningful:

- Fellowship & Connection** – It's one of the most loved parts of the gathering: seeing familiar faces, meeting new friends, and sharing encouragement with others on the same journey.
- Worship** – Corporate worship is powerful here—a multi-generational chorus lifting a unified song to the God who holds us steady.
- Speakers & Breakouts** – Thoughtful teaching and practical breakout sessions help pastors and church leaders grow in both faith and ministry craft.
- Renewal & Encouragement** – Whether in big sessions or hallway conversations, there's often a deep sense of "You're not alone in this."

For us as a church team, this gathering is a valuable opportunity to:

- Stay connected with the broader ECO family,
- Bring back fresh insights to strengthen our ministry and discipleship,
- Pray with and for others serving across the country,
- And simply be encouraged in our callings.

Please join us in **praying** for safe travel, rich encounters with God, and blessing on all who attend. We'll be eager to share stories and reflections when we return!

If you'd like to learn more about the ECO National Gathering or even register to attend, you can visit the official site at econationalgathering.org.

ACTIVITIES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US!

COMMUNION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
11:00AM



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30am
in Westminster Hall



Thursday, February 19 at
10:00 am in McArn Hall

5th SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 22nd
Immediately following worship in Westminster Hall
Fried Chicken is the main course!

**Please make a reservation on Realm (please put in the
memo your side dish) or call the church office.**



2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE
15-19



9AM-12PM

calendar!

Mark your

** South Carolina
"Real Southern Chicken
Bog"



\$10
per order



Order by Tuesday,
February 3rd



Meals for Missions

Thursday,

February 5th

5-7PM

ALL Proceeds
Support
Youth
mission trips
& local
mission projects

What you get:
chicken bog, side, dessert

Bethesda Presbyterian Church
502 E Dekalb St.
Camden, SC 29020

Questions?

Contact Hannah Winstead
dcmebethesdapresbyterianchurch.org
call or text (843)450-7846

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING/ TACKLE HUNGER

Bethesda Presbyterian Church is once again participating in the Annual **SOUPER BOWL of CARING** Offering! This offering helps feed those who are hungry and hurting right here in our community. 100% of the money collected goes directly to Food For the Soul.

We will collect this offering on Sunday, February 8th. Our goal this year is \$2000.



Adult Bible Study

Every Monday morning 10:00 - 11:00am in John Knox Hall. The video teaching is led by Pastor Gary Hamrick, Pastor of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Virginia. We are currently studying *Genesis*.

A Grateful Heart and Excited about the New Year Ahead

It is hard to believe it has already been over a month since we were wishing one another *Merry Christmas*, singing beloved Christmas carols, exchanging gifts, opening presents, and saying “goodbye” to 2025 and “hello” to a brand-new year—2026!

I want to thank you, Bethesda Church Family, for the many ways you demonstrated generosity, kindness, encouragement, support, and love throughout the Christmas season. From the Angel Tree, to Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, to Sacks of Love, to Food for the Soul, and to the Meal Ministry—just to name a few—you shared Christ’s love with one another and with our community in meaningful and tangible ways.

I am, personally, grateful for the many ways you demonstrated your love to me this Christmas season through every delicious “goodie,” every Christmas card, and every gift given out of hearts full of love, support, and encouragement. More importantly, I am thankful for the friendship and love they represent. Thank you!

I hope your New Year—2026—is off to a healthy, happy, and blessed start. Whether you make New Year’s resolutions or not, my prayer is that each of us has resolved to actively participate in the worship, witness, and service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through God’s Church here at Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Bethesda has so many wonderful opportunities for the entire family to participate in through worship, service, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and missions/outreach. I hope you will take full advantage of these opportunities and that God will richly bless your commitment to Him and His Church at Bethesda. As Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us: “*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

***Here are just some of the ways you and your family can get “plugged in”**

Sunday Morning Fellowship – 9:45– 10:00am every Sunday Morning. Join us for a time of encouragement, Coffee, light refreshments, and fellowship!

Sunday School – 10:00 – 10:45am every Sunday morning. There is a class for everyone beginning with nursery age through the oldest age! What a great time to get plugged in...the start of a new Year! It’s not too late to join a Sunday School Class.

Sunday Morning Worship Service – 11:00am – 12:00noon in the sanctuary.

Handbells – Wednesday evenings 5:30 – 6:15pm. All ages are welcome.

Adult Choir – Bo & Ari Dickinson would love to have you join the choir. You don’t have to sing beautifully... just be willing to sing and make a joyful noise. The choir practices Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm in McArn Hall.

Bethesda BLAST (Bible Learning And Singing Together) – Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 – 5:30pm Children ages 3K – 12th grade. After-school bus pick-up for CES, PTH, and CMS is provided.

Home-bound Meal Ministry – Every Wednesday afternoon the youth & several adult volunteers deliver meals to those who are recovering from surgery, rehabbing, illness, or homebound for any reason. If you would like to participate in helping to deliver meals, contact the church office (or Brent). If you are ever in need of a meal (and an encouraging & uplifting visit from the youth), please contact the church office.

BYG Youth Group – Every Sunday Night from 5:30-7:30pm. Students in grades 6th -12th come together for recreation/games/fun, enjoy a delicious supper, and Bible study.

SOUPER BOWL of CARING – Come prepared to give on ***Sunday, Feb 8th***. The youth will collect the offering in SOUP POTS during Coffee Fellowship and at the end of the worship service. Donations go to our local ***FOOD for the SOUL***. ****Church Goal = \$2,000.***

Men’s Breakfast – The third Tuesday morning of every month from 7:30 – 8:15am in Westminster Hall. All men are invited and encouraged to start this day off with a delicious breakfast, good fellowship, & short devotional.

Presbyterian Women Circle (Bible Study) – The second Tuesday morning of every month starting at 10:30am. All women are invited and encouraged to attend this wonderful women’s fellowship and Bible study.

Adult Bible Study – Every Monday morning 10:00 - 11:00am in John Knox Hall. The video teaching is led by Pastor Gary Hamrick, Pastor of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Virginia. We are currently studying ***Genesis***.

BINGO – Join us for fun, fellowship, and wonderful door prizes! Every third Thursday of the month at 10:00am in McArn Hall.

Also, check out Bethesda’s website at <https://www.bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org/> to learn more about Bethesda and what all is going on here at God’s Church @ Bethesda Presbyterian Church!

Brent Kendall

Hello Bethesda Family!!!!

ALOT has happened since our last Beacon, so here is a very quick review of 2025 and you can let the pictures speak for themselves. BLAST finished the year out with our children's Christmas pageant, youth BLAST delivered Christmas bags to our homebound Bethesdans, the youth had their annual Christmas party hosted by the Floyd family, and the girls Bible study had a sleepover at my house. It was a busy time but so full of Christ's love and fellowship that it seemed to fly by. NOW, here we are in 2026, and it has been an interesting start to the year with all of these weather events and "almost" weather events. We are being reminded at every turn of how GREAT our God is and His provision, protection, and love through Jesus. The children and youth at Bethesda have not been idle though!

We kicked off the new year on January 2nd and 3rd with our SERVE Weekend with 19 people (10 youth and 9 adults) who were able to help 2 of our very own Bethesda covenant partners by doing some yard work on day 1. I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of the adults who joined us in our efforts. We really appreciate your hard work and time. I pray that you saw how capable and loving our youth are and their desire to help others. The homeowners we assisted were grateful for our efforts and the results were dramatic. I'm proud to say that I served alongside this fine group! On day 2 we were able to do some cleaning and organizing on our beautiful campus to include deep cleaning our church bus. After a day and a half of hard work, we joined with the youth from LUMC for lunch and a fun game of "The Amazing Race" on our campus. A great time was had by all and we learned about the joy and peace that comes from loving others by serving them!

We also started back with our Wednesday BLAST program and had some new faces join us as well as some old ones return. This is so exciting to see the program grow and children dig into the Bible. We are continuing to work our way through the Bible and learn how the entire thing is a living book and a love story/instruction guide from God to each of us. In choir, they are preparing for the spring program and possibly another appearance. This is a great group of children who are hungry for Jesus.

Looking ahead in February: **We are in NEED of more volunteers to help substitute teach Children's Sunday school, nursery volunteers, and a male chaperone for the youth mission trip to WV in July.** SOUPER Bowl of caring collection is coming on February 8th, Super Bowl Sunday, and the youth will be collecting donations for Food for the Soul at worship. Youth Sunday has been moved to the Sunday after Easter, April 12th so be sure to mark your calendars for what promises to be a wonderful worship service. Outside of Bethesda's campus we have many young friends who share their faith while participating in other activities such as school sports, plays, musical endeavors, and part time jobs. I'm proud to know these awesome kiddos and youth and hope that you will continue to pray for them and show up to support them. If you would like more information on how to get involved, my office door is almost always open, my phone is ALWAYS on, and home is a zoo, but you are welcome. Let's do life together and love these children and youth well!

In Christ,

Hannah Winstead



**YOUTH SERVE
JANUARY 2026**

YOUTH DELIVERING CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS & CAROLING



YOUTH MEAL MINISTRY



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD





2025 Christmas Eve Service



YOUTH SERVE WITH LYTTLETON STREET



Sunday
at
10:00 am

BINGO!



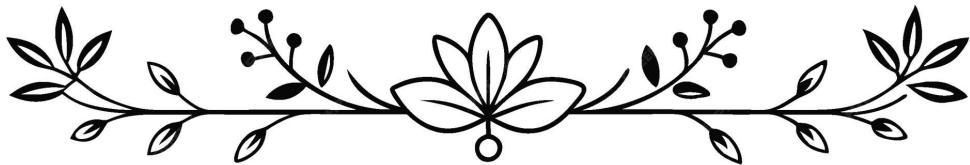
Third Thursday
of the month at
10:00am in
McArn Hall



INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS
JANUARY 4, 2026

GARDENERS, FLOWER LOVERS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Bethesda's Flower Guild would love to have you join us. If you love flowers, gardening or want to try your hand at arranging flowers, we have an opportunity for you. Elizabeth Reames is offering a class on arranging flowers. She will give us tips on vases and flowers, please join Bethesda's Flower Guild. Elizabeth Reames will be offering a Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 3:30pm in John Knox Hall is the date for our next meeting. The Guild has had a great Summer thanks to the generous Covenant Members. All of you have shared so many flowers from your gardens and yards that have been made into beautiful arrangements for our Sunday Services. A number of Covenant Members have asked the Guild to do the flowers for Sundays in memory or honor of loved ones. Covenant Partners are given the choice of having the Guild do the arrangements for \$85. Additionally, you may choose from Elizabeth's Gardens (our own Elizabeth Reames business) or Long Leaf Florist to do your arrangements. The Flower Guild appreciates your support. During the month of August, part of the Sunday School Collections will go toward the support of Bethesda's Flower Guild. Donations to the Guild are needed so that new artificial arrangements and fresh flowers can be available when there are no flowers. We would love to have more volunteers. If you are interested in doing arrangements for Sunday or providing flowers from your garden or yard, please contact Jan Shumate at 803 424-7752.



BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We have had a great start to the year over here at BCS. Everyone is getting into the groove despite this winter weather throwing us off a little. Registration for the next school year begins on Monday, February 2nd for Bethesda Pres. Church members. Our enrollment opens to the public on Monday, February 9th. Registration forms are in Holley's office if you would like to share with neighbors or family. A big thanks to our BCS family and friends who have contributed to Souper Bowl of Caring. We are looking to a fantastic February with Dental Health Week and our Valentine's Day parties. Please feel free to email me at bcs@bethesdapresbyterian.org if you have any questions about registration.



February

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	2 10:00 PWCT 10:00 Bible Study	3 11:00 Worship 4:00 CE	4 11:00 Congregational Care 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Outreach 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 BYG Girls BS	5 4:00 Finance Drive-Thru dinner 5-7pm	6	7
8 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 1:30 Session 5:30 BYG	9 10:00 Bible Study	10 10:30 PW Circle	11 2:30 BLAST 3:30 Flower Guild 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 BYG Girls BS	12	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 
15 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	16 10:00 Bible Study	17 7:30 Men's Breakfast	18 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 BYG Girls BS	19 10:00 Bingo	20	21
22 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG	23 10:00 Bible Study <u>Newsletter DEADLINE</u>	24	25 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir 7:00 BYG Girls BS	26	27 10:00 Property	28

Please check your weekly bulletin for any changes or additions to each week's activites

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



2. Kathryn Wilcox	19. Janet McCorkle
4. Bob Kiger	Emily Huggins
Harry Woodmansee	20. Cathy Floyd
7. Mike Watson	Sandy Shull
8. Cathy Amyette	21. Judith Reed
Kitty Sheorn	Mason Huggins
10. George Corbin	22. Neal Blank, Jr.
Tim Bordner	23. Ron Prestage
11. Ellie Kendall	Allen Geddings
13. Wade Ammons	Morgan Conley
14. Cathy Hough	26. Andrew Batten
Cheryl Kelly	Megan Campbell
Dick Rounseville	27. Ken Herman
16. Art Delperdang	Wyatt Cobb
18. Carolyn Nowlen	29. Ian Wilcox

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

During this time of transition, please pray for Bethesda and its leadership.

MEMBERS: Susan Marshall, Baynard Boykin, Carol Meckstroth, Judy Martin, John Shaylor, Ken Mays, Roy Isaacson, Sally Huntley, Erline Vaughan, Jennifer Barfield, Tommy Gaffney, Kitty Sheorn, Art Delperdang, Vicki Clarke, Roland Windham

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Anna Vaughn Manly (cousin of the Thomas'), Judy McAbee (Lisa Woolard's mother), Barbara Cecil (Carolyn Drake's sister), Diane Alexander (friend of Mike Eddings), Clint Baxley (Stephanie Batten's brother), Betty Carges (family friend of Jim & Jo McLeod), Huntley Duryea (The Windham's nephew), Nina Bell (Doug Bell's sister-in-law), Paul Davis (friend of Freddie and Louise Myers), Colette Hearon (friend of the Floyds), George Carder (Jo McLeod's cousin), Mike Mays (Bob Mays' son), John Kennelly (friend of Angie & Lindsay Guy), Rev. Tim Erskine, Sophie Butcha (friend of the Satterwhites), Rory Gaffney (Tommy & Elizabeth Gaffney's grandson), Nick Lindsay (Karen Lindsay's brother), Susan Didato (friend of the Deals), Betty Coffee (friend of Bethesda)

MILITARY: Hamilton Matthews (friend of Marc & Kathryn Jones), Matthew Palmer, Clay Higgins (Grandson of Emily Jones, nephew of the Deals and Joneses), Jonathan & Laurie VanEtten (Pam & Bill Nettles' daughter and son-in-law)

SACKS OF LOVE

We currently provide Sacks of Love for 25 students at Camden High School. This is a very rewarding way to help hungry children in our community by donating the items listed below. Please contact Kathleen Hughes at 843-729-1842 or kchughes51@gmail.com if you can help.

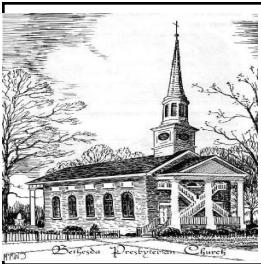
****Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and needed at this time due to the increase in students and the cost of groceries.****



Food List for Sacks of Love

All should be individual serving sizes with pop-tops or tear-off lids.

- Vienna sausage
- Tuna, canned or pouch /Chicken, canned or pouch
- Pork, canned or pouch
- Spam in individual tear-open pouches
- Beanie Weenies
- Chili or chili & beans
- Spaghettios, Beefaroni, or other pasta foods (7 or 7 1/2 oz size)
- Individual serving of fruit (cups/cans)
- Peanut butter or cheese filled crackers (6 cracker packs are best)
- Pop Tarts
- Granola breakfast bars
- Peanuts, cashews, sunflower seeds
- 8 oz. Juice boxes
- Pudding Cups & Jell-o Cups
- Ramen Noodles
- Hot chocolate (pouches)
- Small bags of pretzels, animal cookies, or other individually wrapped cookies or cakes
- Beef Jerky (Slim Jims)
- Raisins
- Single Serve Soups
- Cup of Soup
- Bagels or muffins (individually wrapped)
- Pasta Cups, Mashed Potato Cups, Mac and cheese cups
- Breakfast bars like Belvita or generic brand
- Canned vegetables (many come in individual or smaller can sizes)
- Dinty Moore Complete Meal (several varieties and it's a complete meal)
- String Cheese (for Calcium) shelf stable
- Yogurt (Gogo Squeez Yogurtz) are shelf stable



Bethesda Presbyterian Church

**502 DeKalb Street
Camden, SC 29020**

Return Service Requested

FEBRUARY 2026

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Dear Ladies,

I just returned from a trip to Florida to visit with family and to go to a car show. They experienced record lows while we were there! It was wonderful to see family; however, I did miss being at Circle. Hopefully we had a big turn out.

Our next Circle will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 10:30 in John Knox Hall. Babs Jordan has done an incredible job planning our programs. I, for one, eagerly anticipate who our next speaker will be. Babs likes to keep it a secret! Please make every effort to attend (and invite your friends.) It helps us to stay connected to one another as well as strengthen our faith.

Thank you to all those who have “adopted” a youth. I know they appreciate your prayers, kind words of encouragement through cards, and your effort to purchase small gifts for them. We will “reveal” who we have been praying for on April 26th at the youth meeting. Note that this is a little earlier than normal. We will provide a meal for them, as well. If anyone has any suggestions as to what to have, please let me know.

I look forward to being with y'all on the 10th.

Lisa Woolard