

# Bethesda



# Beacon

August 2025

## STAFF

**Rev. Patrick D. Cherry**

*Interim Pastor*

[pastor@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:pastor@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Mr. Art Maxwell**

*Interim Head of Staff*

[artmaxwell51@icloud.com](mailto:artmaxwell51@icloud.com)

**Rev. Brent Kendall**

*Director of Evangelism, Outreach, & Ministries*

[DCE@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:DCE@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Mrs. Hannah Winstead**

*Director of Children & Youth Ministry*

[dcm@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:dcm@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Mr. & Mrs. Bo Dickinson**

*Directors of Music*

[music@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:music@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Mr. Thomas Martin**

*Clerk of Session*

[thomasmartin@osmain.com](mailto:thomasmartin@osmain.com)

**Mrs. Lisa Woolard**

*Moderator, Presbyterian Women*

[lisamwoolard@gmail.com](mailto:lisamwoolard@gmail.com)

**Mrs. Clara Fenton**

*Office Manager*

[clara@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:clara@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Ms. Holley Ham**

*Staff Assistant*

[bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Mr. Tom Hoke**

*Facilities Manager*

[tom@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:tom@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Mr. Johnny Deal**

*Media Ministry Specialist*

[media@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:media@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

Church office telephone 432-4593

Church email:  
[bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:bethesda@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

**Bethesda's Website:**

[www.bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)

## LOVE

As we have transitioned to the ECO denomination of the Presbyterian Church, over the past several months, I have attempted to lay out some thoughts regarding the challenges that we face here at Bethesda. This certainly has been a very stressful time for all of us. Additionally, we all see the turmoil that our country deals with on a daily basis both domestically and internationally. How could anyone not be affected by the events of the day? I do not presume that my words will result in change; however, I suggest that if we all attempt to follow the words of our Lord to **LOVE one another**, our lives and those lives around us will be better.

God has been teaching love since the beginning of time. We find in Leviticus 19: 17-18 that God states: **Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Re-buke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.** And in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 he states: **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** These words set the foundation for the Israelites in their interactions with each other.

Of course, we cannot forget that: **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** John 3:16. Then we find that Matthew, Mark, and Luke relate the following story: **Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of the them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law? Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Matthew 22: 34-37).** Jesus emphasizes His thoughts on love when, at the Last Supper, he directs his disciples: **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12).**

What more direction could we have? God has provided us the guide to success in our lives. If we follow His direction, a bedrock is established. **Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.** 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. Certainly not an easy task; but one, if followed, will lead to peace within each of us.

**Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen (1 John 4:20).** There are well over 300 direct references to love in the Bible. As you go about your day to day lives, I would encourage each of us to recall these passages and strive to put love at the forefront of our minds. It is what God wants us to do!

**No one has ever seen God;  
but if we love one another, God lives in us  
and his love is made complete in us.  
(1 John 4:12)**

## INTERIM MINISTER UPDATE

To Bethesda's Congregation:

The Session and the Worship Committee are excited to announce that Reverend Patrick Cherry will become Bethesda's Interim Minister. Patrick will officially begin his ministry on August 3rd.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Martin  
Clerk of Session

## COMMUNION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd



## CALLING ALL GARDNERS, FLOWER LOVERS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Bethesda's Flower Guild had a great Summer thanks to the generous Covenant Members. All of you have shared so many flowers from your gardens and yards that were 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.



## MEALS FOR MISSIONS

### DRIVE THRU DINNER

Thursday, August 7

5-7pm

BBQ sandwich, chips &  
dessert  
\$10



## MEN'S BREAKFAST



Join us the third Tuesday of the  
month starting  
Tuesday, August 19th at 7:30am  
in Westminster Hall.



## Churchyard Cleanup Day

Campus Clean-up, Saturday Aug 9, 8:00-12:00. All are welcome to participate in this biannual tradition of maintaining the beautiful Bethesda campus that God has entrusted to us. Our primary focus will be on removing limbs and debris along the back property line and the theater property line. Additionally, we'll conduct a deep cleaning of the Westminster kitchen.



We desperately need nursery volunteers for Sunday School and Church. The average is once per month, but the more volunteers, the less the commitment. Please contact Jan Masalon at 803-730-4841 or via email at 1611jfarrell@gmail.com.



**5th Sunday**

The next potluck luncheon will be on Sunday, August 31st immediately following worship.  
We will feature the RISE Praise Band, who will lead us in an Ole Timey Gospel Sing-along!



## SACKS OF LOVE

If you are interested in joining the Sacks of Love committee which provides weekend food for hungry students at Camden High School, please contact the Church office. Bethesda Presbyterian Church members donated resources, shopped for food, and packed and delivered over 350 sacks last year!

### Food List for Sacks of Love

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

Tuna, chicken, spam	Instant grits
Beanie Weenies	Ramen noodles
Spaghettios, Beefaroni, etc.	Vienna sausage
Poptarts	pudding cups
Raisins	Instant oameal
Soup	Instant grits
Individual cereal	Fruit or applesauce cups
Canned vegetables	Juice boxes

## Sunday Schedule

Starting Sunday, August 10

9:15 – 9:45am – RISE in Westminster Hall  
9:45am – 10:45am – Sunday School Classes  
11:00am – Sunday Morning Worship Service



## BYG – SUNDAY NIGHTS

(starting 8-17)

5:30 – 7:30pm – Bethesda's Youth Group (BYG)

\*6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders meet for recreation/games, dinner, worship, & Bible study lesson  
**DELICIOUS FOOD! WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP!! AWESOME FUN!!!**

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



As I am writing this article, it is just a couple of days away from our second jump rope workshop. The workshops are designed to help us learn how to make jump ropes out of t-shirts, which will be used to help fill up our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. I was so excited to see such a great turnout (we had about 10-15 people) at our first workshop! We even had a couple of youth attend, which was very exciting! I'm looking forward to another good turnout!

Remember, we are collecting items to fill these shoeboxes throughout the year. The items we will collect for August include: Calculators, glue sticks, nail clippers and files, socks, sewing kits, and small musical instruments. Don't forget to take advantage of tax-free weekend August 1-3rd. Thank you so much for continuing to contribute to this great project that literally reaches children all throughout the world. These boxes are reminders to them of God's love.

On Sunday, August 10th is rally day! There will be a table with information about the shoeboxes along with vital information about Presbyterian Women. Please stop by and chat with me during the Sunday school hour. We will officially start back with Circle on September 9th.

Lisa Woolard  
Moderator

## AUGUST SHOEBOX ITEMS

Calculators  
glue sticks  
nail clippers and file  
socks  
sewing kits  
small musical instruments



# BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Neely Allen has accepted the position as the new director of Bethesda Christian School. Neely and her family recently moved back to Camden after a year in Texas for her husband's, John, job. Neely has three children Paul, Luke and Susie. Paul and Luke are graduates of BCS and they all cherish the time they spent here. Susie will be joining the 2s class starting in August. Neely was a neonatal intensive care nurse at the Prisma Health Richland for eight years prior to moving to Texas. While in Texas, she served at her church, Flatonia Baptist Church, for a short time as the Children's Ministry Coordinator. She worked at the Children's Center at USC while earning her bachelor's degree in business. Also, she has been a lead teacher in the classroom. She has experience with children in different settings but her love for children has been evident throughout her life. She is looking forward to the opportunity to help the students learn and grow in the loving environment that has been created at Bethesda already. She hopes to continue to show the love of Christ to the children as they learn.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am excited to get to learn and grow right alongside of your kiddos this year as I take on this new role. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your children's lives. We will kick off our school year with Open House on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm and Meet the Teacher on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am. Our first official day is Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to offer early drop-off at 8am this year to help our working parents get to work in a timely manner. We look forward to the opportunity to continue sharing the love of Jesus with your children this year. Please be mindful of our families and young children in the parking lot. We look forward to another blessed year here at BCS!

Neely Allen  
Director





## PRAYERS

**MEMBERS:** Susan Marshall, Baynard Boykin, Carol Meckstroth, Judy Martin, Elliott Sheorn, John Shaylor, Larry Parrott, Debbie Herman, Ken Mays, Roy Isaacson, Sally Huntley, Erline Vaughan, Jennifer Barfield

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Lyn Neil (Jan Massalon's cousin), 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), Mary Wannamaker Hendrix, Huntley Duryea (The Windham's nephew), Clair Orvin (friend of Jan Massalon), Nina Bell (Doug Bell's sister-in-law), Paul Davis (friend of Freddie and Louise Myers), Colette Hearon (friend of the Floyds), Arthur Simon (friend of the Parnells), Debbie Durant (friend of the Massalons), Wallace Barr (Carolyn Hammond's brother), 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), John Hoke (Tom's brother), Rory Gaffney (Tommy & Elizabeth Gaffney's grandson), Nick Lindsay (Karen Lindsay's brother)

**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)



the family and  
friends of Dan  
Marshall.



## Sacks of Love-THANK YOU!

Please join with me in thanking Dee Blank for her stellar efforts for the past 8+ years as the coordinator of the Sacks of Love program. Dee's leadership and love of all these young people has been an inspiration to us all. She is the epitome of Christian fellowship and service. Dee: we all say a heartfelt **THANKS** for all that you do for the church. God bless you and your entire family.

Now I would like to introduce our new Sacks of Love Coordinator: Kathleen Hughes. Kathleen has been working with the program for several years. Her experience and dedication to this ministry will certainly result in our continued success in supporting our Camden High School youth.

If you are looking for a ministry in the church that could use your support, please reach out to Kathleen or the church office. I'm certain we can use your talents for this program.



- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bill Brooks            | 16. Tracy Marshall Bell |
| 3. Fran Goodwin           | 21. Quentin Webber      |
| 4. Mary Catherine Norwood | Sandy McCombs           |
| 5. Mary Catherine Miller  | 24. John Stephenson     |
| 6. Katie Munn             | Maggie Blank            |
| 7. Marc Jones             | 25. Alyson Barnett      |
| Cole Whitehouse           | Johnny Deal             |
| Richard McCombs           | 28. Glenn Tucker        |
| 11. Tommy Shumate         | 30. John Thomas         |
| 12. Mike Eddings          | Art Maxwell             |
|                           | 31. Tom Hoke            |



Thank you so much for your offering, prayers, and encouragement at the 5th Sunday lunch last month. They mean more to us than we can express.

It was such a gift to share with you all about what God is doing in Peru and how He's been preparing the way for us as we step into this new season of ministry. Your support is helping us move forward with confidence, knowing we are being sent out by a community that has deeply shaped our faith.

We left that Sunday feeling full of gratitude, not just for the financial gift, but for the love behind it. Thank you for walking with us, believing in us, and being part of what God is doing through Campus Outreach in Lima.

With love and gratitude,  
Kate & Nathan Demetri

# ***From your Outreach Committee***

In Brent's absence I have prepared a report of our committee's proposed outreach activities through the end of the year. Let us know if you have any idea's you think would demonstrate our mission of outreach in our community!

Your Outreach committee has been hard at work in 2025! We had a great event in March with the Steve Pettitt Band and our own Emily Guy.

## **These are the proposed outreach activities through the end of 2025:**

**Praise Fest** is scheduled for September 20th, on the front lawn. The proposed time is 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Food trucks will be available for food and drink purchases. Folks who attend will register online at Evenbrite. There will be no charge, but this helps to get a headcount for food vendors.

Our very own RISE band will perform as well as the Bradley Dulaney Band and the praise team from Zamar Church!

This is a family friendly event and open to the community. Attendees need to bring chairs, blankets, and coats for cooler evening temperatures.

We are proposing sponsoring a **fall recreational ball team** in an effort to show our involvement in the community. Brent Kendall has agreed to coach a soccer or baseball team. We urge church members to go to the games and support the team!

**The Fall Festival** is scheduled for October 29th. This event is sponsored by the CE, but Outreach will help promote the event.

The committee is proposing a church wide gathering called **Autumn Fest**. In September/ October 2025. The intention is to have a fall social gathering as we do in the spring with the oyster roast.

## **On the horizon for 2026:**

**Steve Petit and the 18 Mile Band** may possibly return to Bethesda in the Spring Of 2026. More details as they become available.

Tim Bordner  
Outreach Committee Chairman

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Hello Bethesda Family!

WOW! What a summer for our children and youth at Bethesda. Although our regular programs were on pause for summer break, it seems like we never stopped. First, we had an Outreach water park day trip to Hartsville's Neptune Island where 70% of the children were from the Camden community and half of them didn't have a church home. Our youth helped to chaperone and loved on these wonderful kiddos while we enjoyed some devotion and water fun. The following week, our youth went to FUGE Camp where they dug deep in faith, worshipped, and were spiritually fed through Christian fellowship. The next week our children took center stage for our True North VBS! We ministered to over 100 children ages 2-5th grade and over 70 volunteers (including youth) made it happen. We added a coffee fellowship time at drop off for parents and a nursery this year which parents absolutely loved! It was a beautiful week of learning, worship, and fun with our tiniest theologians.

July was just as busy as we geared up for the big Bethesda Rummage Sale. Over the course of a week, Westminster transformed into a shopping area filled with every variety of item you can imagine and then for 3 days our greater Camden community shopped. We raised \$2899.27 to go towards our youth mission trips and projects. Our youth then went to Panther, WV with Son Servants and joined with 4 other youth groups to serve on 20 worksites between the 12 groups where every single project was completed AND 2 homeowners who weren't believers gave their lives to Christ! It was a transformative week and here's a quote from our very own Paisley Beam's Facebook post "I had so much fun !! This was truly one of the best weeks of my life . 😊 I am so thankful I was given the opportunity to go on this trip and help serve those in Panther while also worshipping and having fun !! ❤️ I made new friends and experienced new things that I wouldn't have honestly done if I hadn't been given the push and encouragement from my mom and Hannah". So, THANK YOU, to our Bethesda family for supporting this trip through your prayers and giving.

NOW, we look forward to another exciting year for our children and youth at Bethesda as Promotion Sunday and the new school year are upon us! Please join us on Sunday, August 10th, for Promotion Sunday where our pre-k, 3rd, and Confirmation students will have Bible presentations. All students and teachers will be given a gift to help them keep Christ at the center of life and be prayed over. We will also use this time to "Promote" the various ministries of the church and have a chance to sign up to join in those opportunities. Sign-ups for fall programs have begun and will continue as well. August promises to be another wonderful month in the lives of Bethesda's children and youth so please join me in praying for all the students, parents, teachers, and school staff who will be getting back into the groove of things. If you'd like to help in more tangible ways by teaching regularly or 1-off events please reach out!

In Christ,

Hannah Winstead  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

**\*\*MANDATORY** youth parent meeting on 8/10 at 5:30 Parents **MUST** attend and complete paperwork for your youth to participate in any BYG activity- including Wednesday afternoon youth BLAST, Sunday BYG, and any trips or outings!\*\*



# PANTHER, WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP

## JULY 21-26, 2025





# 2025 VBS

(June 16-20)





# FUGECamp

June 9-13, 2025

FRIENDSHIP



FELLOWSHIP



FUN!



Hartsville Water Park trip

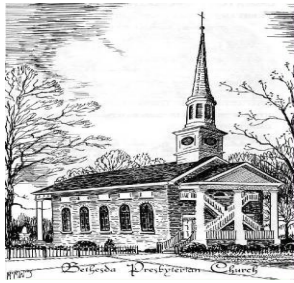


Summer  
Sunday School  
window  
washers

# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 Property	2
3 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:15 RISE 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship Service	4 1:00 Congregational Care 11:00 Worship Committee	5 4:00pm CE Committee	6	7 5-7pm Drive-thru dinner	8 5:00 BCS Open House	9
10 9:15 RISE 10:00 <b>PROMO- TION SUNDAY</b> 11:00 Worship Service 1:30 Session 5:30 Youth Parent meeting	11	12 BCS starts back	13 5:30 Youth Parent Meeting make up date	14	15	16
17 9:15 RISE 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 YouthPool/ lake party	18	19 7:30am Men's Breakfast	20	21	22	23
24 9:15 RISE 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 Youth	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:15 RISE 9:45 SS 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 <b>Potluck dinner</b> 5:30 No Youth						





## ***Bethesda Presbyterian Church***

*502 DeKalb Street  
Camden, SC 29020*

**Return Service Requested**

August 2025

*Faith* IS NOT KNOWING  
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,  
BUT KNOWING  
*who holds the future.*

# **PROMOTION SUNDAY!**

## **AUGUST 10th IN WESTMINSTER HALL**

This is the Sunday we set aside each year to celebrate and showcase our many ministries that begin with the wonderful disciples of Bethesda and reach out into the community and world as Jesus taught his followers to do.

Please join us as we recognize and “promote” our children and youth to the next Sunday school class, enjoy coffee and delicious refreshments provided by the Christian Education Committee, and visit the exhibits showing the many ministries of Bethesda.

Staff, elders, and volunteers will be stationed at each table in Westminster Hall to welcome you and share ministry opportunities where you can connect with us and minister to others. We are hosting an undergarment donation drive for school age children for the Kershaw County School Nurses to use. All sizes for girls and boys are needed. Also, you may donate non-perishable food items for *Sacks of Love* (individual packs of crackers, fruit cups, pop tarts, etc.) and canned goods for Food for the Soul food pantry. *We appreciate all donations for these ministries!*

9:30-10:00 AM RISE praise music and worship, Westminster Hall

10:00-10:50 AM Promotion Sunday, Westminster Hall

11:00 Worship in Bethesda's sanctuary

*congregational*  
**CARE**

