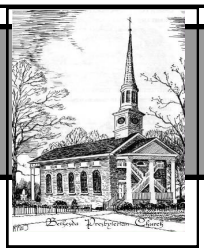
A Newsletter for the Members and Friends of Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Bethesda Beacon



September 2026

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Saints of Bethesda,

First, mark your calendar for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal on August 30 following worship. We'll enjoy a meal together, musical entertainment, and an important opportunity to hear our State-of-the-Church reports. We'll receive updates from the Transitional Pastor, Pastor Nominating Committee, Christian Education, and Finance. These reports will help us understand where we are as a congregation, celebrate what God is doing among us, and look together toward the road ahead. I hope you'll make plans to stay, share a meal, and be part of this important conversation.

Second, beginning Sunday, September 6, our worship services will move to Westminster Hall. As many of you know, our sanctuary elevator is currently out of service and will likely need to be replaced. Because we do not yet know how long that process will take, the Session felt it was important to provide a worship space where all of our members can participate fully. Westminster is much more accessible for those with mobility challenges, and this move is ultimately about making sure that no one is prevented from worshiping with their church family.

I recognize that changing our worship space may be difficult for some of us. Our sanctuary is a meaningful place, filled with memories and years of worship. But wherever we gather, we remain the church, and Christ remains at the center of our worship. My prayer is that we will approach this season not simply with patience, but with a spirit of grace and care for one another.

There is much ahead for Bethesda, and we do not have every answer about what the future holds. But we can be confident in the One who does. I look forward to gathering with you, listening together, worshiping together, and trusting God to lead us faithfully into the next chapter of Bethesda's story.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Patrick

THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th FOR LABOR DAY

WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE

As many of you know, the elevator/lift has been down, and it looks like a replacement will be required and will take some time to install. This creates a barrier for accessibility for some of our members. We want to address that obstacle in a way that allows for the most inclusion. Therefore, the Session voted to move worship over to Westminster Hall, starting Sunday, September 6th while we figure out the elevator. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thursday, September at 10:00am

In McArn Hall.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

September items:

Pencils
Crayons
Index cards
Bandages
Journals
Small toys
Doll babies
Old t-shirts for making jump ropes

Please remember that these items have to fit into a shoebox.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us Tuesday, September 15th at 7:30 am in

Westminster Hall for fellowship and breakfast.

MEALS FOR MISSIONS

Thursday, September 3rd
Drive-thru 5-7pm

BBQ
Baked beans
Slaw
Dessert

$10 donation per plate

Please reserve your plates!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Every Monday morning from 10:00 – 11:00am. We will start back the Monday after Labor Day – Monday, September 14, 2026 at 10:00am. For our first meeting, we will meet for lunch at Betty Metzger's house on Monday, Sept 14th at 10:00am. You can meet Brent at Bethesda at 9:30 to carpool to Betty's…or just meet us there at 10:00am. You can call church office for directions to Betty's house. Please let Betty (or the church office) know if you will be attending as she needs to know how much lunch to prepare. Please join us!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Dear Ladies,

Believe it or not, fall will be here before we know it. With heat indexes above 100 all week, it's hard to imagine cooler temperatures are in our future! However, I am grateful that I have a few dahlia plants that are hanging in there and producing beautiful flowers!

We will be starting our new year of Circle soon. On September 8th, just a day after Labor Day, we will have our first meeting of the year. If you have never joined us, I encourage you to do so. Each month we have a time of fellowship, we listen to a speaker, and we share prayer concerns, and other vital information. Babs Jordan is in charge of coordinating the speakers. If there is a subject you would like presented or if you would like to volunteer to speak, please let her know! We meet in John Knox Hall at 10:30 the second Tuesday of the month. Generally, several ladies will go to lunch together after the meeting at a local restaurant and continue their time of fellowship.

Due to Labor Day being on September 7th, the PWCT will meet on September 8th at 9:00 just before Circle.

We will be collecting the following items for our shoeboxes in September: pencils, crayons, index cards, bandages, journals, small toys, doll babies, and old t-shirts for making jump ropes. Please don't forget that these items have to fit inside a shoebox! Thank you so much for your continued help with this project!

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for October 13th for our next Circle. I look forward to another wonderful year at Circle!

Lisa Woolard

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We are off to a great start! The children and staff are settling into a routine with one another. Pastor Brent will be starting chapel this month and we are excited to have him. We will have the Scholastic Book Fair September 14-18th in John Knox Hall and Grandparents Breakfast on the 17th and 18th. Our classes will be collecting for the Sacks of Love the week of September 28th. Happy September!

Dear Bethesda Member,

This year our theme for Stewardship Season is **"practicing stewardship in a challenging year."** A part of giving is the annual pledge. Please take time in the coming days to pray about your pledge and how it will help us all plan for the new year.

Through your generosity, we are able to:

- Support meaningful worship and music programs
- Provide resources for children, youth and adult ministries
- Serve our local and global neighbors through outreach

Maintain our church home as a welcoming space for all

This year Pledge Sunday is October 11. Please bring your card to the worship service or Sunday school class you attend on that day. You may also mail it in to the church or drop it by the office before Pledge Sunday.

Thank you for being a vital part of Bethesda. Together, through God's grace, we will continue to grow faith, love and service.

With gratitude and hope,

Mike Satterwhite Lindsay Guy
Finance and Resource Committee

Director of Evangelism, Outreach, & Ministries

What a busy, fun, wonderful, amazing, awesome, and spiritual (and extremely HOT) summer we had! It is hard to believe summer is behind us and a new school year has begun… and already a month in for most of our children and youth. Where did the summer go?!

Our Bethesda church family has been blessed with an incredible season of spiritual growth, encouraging fellowship, and service. We have shared in many special moments and meaningful events together over the summer: **FUGE Youth Summer Camp, Vacation Bible School, and Mission Trip to Panther, West Virginia.** Thank you to all of you who made these trips and events possible and successful!

I want to take a moment to **THANK YOU**, Bethesda Church family, for giving me the gift of a sabbatical during the month of July. This time away was truly life-giving. I had the privilege of resting, relaxing, and reflecting on all God is doing here at Bethesda while also seeking His guidance for how we can continue ministering to one another and reaching our community with God's love.

Now, refreshed and renewed, I am excited to step into this new church year with each of you! God has already done so many wonderful things in and through Bethesda, and I am confident that He has even greater plans ahead. As we look to the future, I encourage you to get involved—whether in worship, fellowship, service, or outreach—as we seek to serve, minister, and bless our church family and community.

August has been a very good and busy month with the kick-off of a new school & church year: **KICKOFF Sunday** (formerly Rally Day & Promotion Sunday), **Back-2-School BYG Pool Party**, **BLAST KICKOFF** (Wednesday afterschool program for children ages Pre-school – 12th grade), **BYG** (Bethesda Youth Group meetings every Sunday evening from 5:30 – 7:30pm, **American Red Cross Blood Drive**, **Men's Breakfast** (every third Tuesday of the month), **Bethesda BINGO** (every third Thursday of the month), working on a **Habitat for Humanity House**, filling up **Blessing Boxes** in our community, and **Meal Ministry** every Wednesday afternoon providing meals and meaningful visits to some of our "homebound" members… just to name a few. A special **thank you** to every person who helps make these programs and activities possible and successful.

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Sunday Schedule

9:45am – Fellowship with Light Refreshments in McArn Hall
10:00 – 10:45am – Sunday School Classes for all ages
11:00 – 12:00Noon – Worship Service

5:30 – 7:30pm – BYG (Bethesda Youth Group) – 6th – 12th grade students gather for a time of fun, fellowship, games, supper, Bible Study, discussions, and more!

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LOOKING AHEAD…

***5th Sunday Luncheon & Town Hall – Sunday, August 30th –** immediately following the worship service in Westminster Hall. Join us for a delicious potluck luncheon. We will walk through where we are in our transition, get an update from the Pastor Nominating Committee, and walk through financial projections. Plus, LANDSLIDE will be providing entertainment! You won't want to miss this Sunday!

Every Wednesday** – ***BLAST **-** ***"BLAST"*** **–** stands for ***B***ible ***L***earning **A**nd **S**inging **T**ogether - This is our fun & exciting Wednesday program which seeks to help children and youth (3K – 12th grade) grow healthy - emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. After-school bus pick-up is available at elementary and middle school. Please let us know if your student needs to be picked up. We meet right after school until 5:30pm. For questions, more info, and registration, please contact Cathy Floyd (803-420-9399) or the church office.

***Meals for Missions** – **Thursday, Sept 3rd** from 5:00-7:00pm. BBQ, Baked Beans, Slaw, Dessert. $10 donation per plate. Please fill out reservation form insert in bulletin or call the church office

***Adult Bible Study** – **Every Monday morning** from 10:00 – 11:00am. We will start back the Monday after Labor Day – Monday, September 14, 2026 at 10:00am. For our first meeting, we will meet for lunch at Betty Metzger's house on Monday, Sept 14th at 10:00am. You can meet Brent at Bethesda at 9:30 to carpool to Betty's…or just meet us there at 10:00am. You can call church office for directions to Betty's house. Please let Betty (or the church office) know if you will be attending as she needs to know how much lunch to prepare. Please join us!

***Men's Breakfast** – **Tuesday, Sept 15th** from 7:30– 8:15am in Westminster Hall. All men are invited to join us for a delicious breakfast, encouraging fellowship, and short devotional.

***BETHESDA BINGO** – **Thursday, Sept 17th** from 10:00 – 11:00am. Meets in McArn Hall. Join us for Bingo, fun, fellowship, and fantastic door prizes for the winners.

I can't wait to see all that God will do in and through you and our Bethesda Church family this year. Together, let's step forward with faith, excitement, and expectations for God's work in our lives and in the life of our church and community.

ELDER ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SEX TRAFFICKING
101 TRAINING: JOIN THE FIGHT

This is a free event to the community.

Lighthouse for Life's Sex Trafficking 101 is designed to equip individuals and communities with critical awareness about the realities of human trafficking. Rooted in the mission to eradicate trafficking through education and empowerment, the training unpacks what sex trafficking is, how it operates, and who is vulnerable. It highlights the manipulation tactics traffickers use—such as force, fraud, and coercion —and breaks down the process from victim targeting to control. The course dispels harmful myths, explores the impact of pornography, sextortion, and online exploitation and emphasizes the vital role of prevention and early identification. Attendees are trained to recognize red flags, respond appropriately, and understand the long-term trauma survivors face. Whether you're a parent, teacher, medical provider, or simply a concerned citizen, this training empowers you to join the fight against trafficking with knowledge, compassion, and confidence.

Tuesday, September 1, 2026
6:00pm-7:30pm
Westminster Hall (Gym)

Scan to register or call the church office to reserve a seat .

BETHESDA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

502 East DeKalb Street, Camden, South Carolina 29020
Office: 803-432-4593 www.BethesdaPresbyterianChurch.org

BINGO!

MEAL MINISTRY

BLESSING BOX MINISTRY

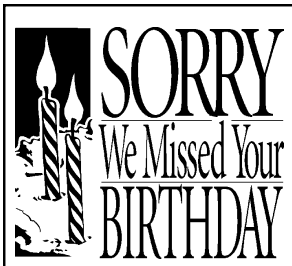
BLAST

BYG BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE

September Birthdays

3. Harris Godfrey
5. Sybil Carson
12. Lisa Davis
13. Dee Blank
    Steve Singleton
19. Rebecca Rundlett
20. Wilson Nash
21. Emily Bell
24. Joan Corbin
    Patricia Geddings
25. Kathleen Hughes
26. Kelley Watson
27. Stephanie Beam
    Ellen Stephenson
28. Roland Windham
29. Jacob Hoke
30. Annah Deal



If the beacon doesn't have your birthday please share that information with us.
432-4593

MEMBERS: Susan Marshall, Baynard Boykin, Judy Martin, John Shaylor, Ken Mays, Erline Vaughan, Art Delperdang, Jo McLeod, Jane Clyburn, Merry Bradley

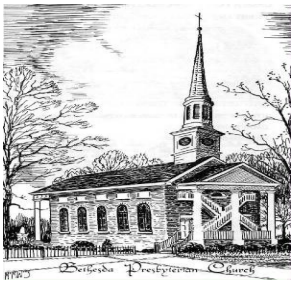
FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Anna Vaughn Manly (cousin of the Thomas'), Barbara Cecil (Carolyn Drake's sister), Clint Baxley (Stephanie Batten's brother), Betty Carges (family friend of Jim & Jo McLeod), Huntley Duryea (The Windham's nephew), Nina Bell (Doug Bell's sister-in-law), Colette Hearon (friend of the Floyds), George Carder (Jo McLeod's cousin), Mike Mays (Bob Mays' son), John Kennelly (friend of Angie & Lindsay Guy), Rory Gaffney (Elizabeth Gaffney's
grandson), Susan Didato (friend of the Deals), Betty Coffee (friend of Bethesda), Joe Floyd, Jim West (Bobby & Linda Parnell's son), Bett Huggins (friend of the Deals), Kyle Asti & Tim Fisher (relatives of the Bates),
Marie Wilson, Angelyn DuRant (Melanie Newman's mother)

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)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:00 Worship 3:30 CE 6:00 Trafficing Seminar	2 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Outreach	3 5-7PM Mission Meal Drive-thru dinner	4	*5*
6 COMMUNION 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service	7 Church offices closed For Labor Day	8 9:00 PWCT 10:30 PW Circle	9 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	10	11	*12*
13 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 1:30 Session 5:30 Youth	14 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Congregational Care	15 7:30 Men's Breakfast	16 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	17 10:00 BINGO	18	*19*
20 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 Youth	21 10:00 Bible Study	22	23 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	24 NewsLetter DEADLine	25 10:00 Property	*26*
27 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship Service 5:30 Youth	28 10:00 Bible Study	29	30			

Please check the weekly church bulletin for changes!



Bethesda Presbyterian Church
502 DeKalb Street
Camden ,SC 29020

Return Service Requested

September 2026

SACKS OF LOVE

We are working with Camden High School again this year to provide sacks containing a weekend's worth of food for students who would otherwise have little or nothing to eat when they are not in school. Our wonderful committee of workers makes it all happen by shopping for food, stocking the cabinets, filling the sacks, and transporting them to Camden High in time for them to be taken home on Friday afternoon. You can also help by remembering Sacks of Love when you do your grocery shopping. Items can be placed in the box in McArn Hall. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact me at kchughes51@gmail.com.

Kathleen Hughes, Coordinator

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