BETHESDA BEACON

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www.bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Saints of Bethesda,

November naturally invites us to think about gratitude. Around Thanksgiving tables, we pause to name the people, experiences, and blessings for which we are thankful. But Christian gratitude is more than taking inventory of the things that have gone well. Gratitude is a spiritual discipline that teaches us to remember the faithfulness of God.

The Psalmist writes, **"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever"** (Psalm 107:1). Notice where we find the foundation of our gratitude. We give thanks not because everything around us is predictable or easy, but because **God is good and His steadfast love endures.**

That distinction matters, particularly in a season like the one Bethesda has been walking through. Over these past years, there have been celebrations and disappointments, moments of clarity and moments of uncertainty. We continue to navigate the challenges of transition and discern what God has in store for the future of this congregation. Yet through it all, God has remained faithful. And there is much for which to give thanks!

I am thankful for those who faithfully show up week after week to worship and serve. I am thankful for Elders and ministry leaders who carry responsibilities that often go unseen. I am thankful for those who teach, encourage our youth, care for our facilities, sing, pray, prepare meals, visit the hurting, welcome guests, and generously support the ministry of Bethesda. Most of all, I am thankful that God continues to gather us as His people and use this congregation for His purposes.

Gratitude also helps us face the future differently. When Israel faced uncertainty, God repeatedly called His people to **remember**…to remember how He had provided, how He had guided, and how He had kept His promises. Remembering God's faithfulness yesterday gave them courage to trust Him tomorrow.

That is an important practice for us as well. Churches, like people, experience seasons. Circumstances change. Ministries change. Leaders change. Sometimes God leads us along paths we anticipated, and sometimes He surprises us. Our temptation in those moments can be to cling tightly to what is familiar because it feels secure. But our security has never ultimately rested in familiar circumstances. **It rests in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

As we approach the end of another year, my prayer is that gratitude would loosen our grip on our fears and strengthen our trust in God. We can give thanks for what has been without believing that everything must remain as it has been. We can value our history while remaining open to the new things God may do. And we can enter an uncertain future with confidence because the God who has faithfully led Bethesda this far will not abandon His church now.

So, this Thanksgiving, let us remember. Let us give thanks. And then, with grateful hearts, let us keep our eyes open for where God may be leading us next.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever."

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Patrick

CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP NEEDED

On Sunday, November 22 at 5pm, the youth and Bethesda's Flower Guild will decorate the sanctuary and Westminster Hall for Christmas. The Guild will provide supper for the Youth. All covenant partners are invited to help us decorate for the Advent season. Looking forward to seeing everyone on

Sunday, November 22 at 5pm.

We are once again participating in the mission project, ***Operation Christmas Child***. Please pick up a "Christmas shoebox" (or two) located in McArn Hall. There will be a brochure inside each shoebox with instructions on what to fill them with for each child. Fill the shoeboxes with the appropriate toys/items and label. Return the shoebox to the church office no later than **Thursday, Nov. 19**

ANGEL TREE

Please stop by McArn Hall on or after Sunday, November 8th and choose an angel from the Angel Tree to help a needy child from Midway Elementary School.

The instructions will be posted, so please read carefully.

The gifts must be returned to the church no later than Monday, December 7th.

Thank you!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 18
7:30 AM
Westminster Hall

Come and enjoy a good breakfast and great fellowship!

Don't forget!

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1st
Set your clock back one hour at 2:00AM Sunday morning.

COMMUNION

Sunday, November 1st

BINGO

Thursday, November 19
10:00am
McArn Hall

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

Greetings from your Pastor Nominating Committee,

The work of connecting Bethesda with God's chosen pastor continues. We are engaged with several candidates at varying degrees, including initial application reviews, individual one-on-one discussions, and formal interviews with the full committee. We are well encouraged by the array of talented candidates demonstrating interest in Bethesda.

The committee shares your deep desire for a permanent pastor; be assured that we are passionately working on your behalf. Please continue to support this important work through your prayers. We ask that you also link your personal social media sites to the Pastor Search page on Bethesda's website for increased exposure. You may reach out to a committee member for assistance with linking sites or any questions regarding the pastor search effort.

Yours in Christ.

Mrs. Emily Jones
The Legacy
719 Kershaw Hwy
Room 113
Camden, SC 29020

Please write or stop by for a visit!

HELP DECORATE OUR WESTMINSTER TREE

As Bethesda prepares for the Advent Season beginning Sunday, November 29, we are excited to fill our spaces with festive cheer. The sanctuary will have two trees adorned with Chrismon ornaments. This year all covenant partners and their family are asked to bring an appropriate ornament to help decorate the tree in Westminster.

Please label each ornament with your name and leave it in Holley's office by Sunday, November 22. Thank you for helping make Bethesda beautiful for Advent!

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Sunday , November 29th
Westminster Hall

Watch for more info and sign up!

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We start collecting for Operation Christmas Child this month and we can't wait to see the kiddos excitement in sharing God's love.

Our children were very eager for Fire Safety week. They learned through sensory exploration and art. It was a wonderful week of learning and fun. We finished it up with a very special visit from our local fire fighters! The fire truck was a big hit this year and we had only a few tears.

SACKS OF LOVE

We currently provide Sacks of Love for 20 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.****

A Food List for Sacks of Love is available from the church office or on the bulletin boards.

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

STAFF

Rev. Patrick D. Cherry
Transitional Pastor
pastor@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Col. (Ret.) Art Maxwell
Interim Assistant to the Senior Pastor
artmaxwell51@icloud.com

Rev. Brent Kendall
Director of Evangelism, Outreach, & Ministries
DCE@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. & Mrs. Bo Dickinson
Directors of Music
music@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mr. Thomas Martin
Clerk of Session
clerkofsession@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mrs. Lisa Woolard
Moderator, Presbyterian Women
lisamwoolard@gmail.com

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Mr. Johnny Deal
Media Ministry Specialist
media@bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org

Mrs. Neely Allen
Director, Bethesda Christian School
BCSdirector@bethesdapesbyerianchurch.org

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2. Helen Young
   Linda Kanatzar
3. Ari Dickinson
   Gabriel Holland
5. Barbara Wood
6. Rickie Tiller
7. Ginger Munnerlyn
8. Mary Carol Sanders
   Chuck Nash
   Lisa Palmer
9. Susan Brewer
11. Sarah Jowers
12. Quinn Baker
13. Joe Denton
14. Chip Whitehouse
    Doug Bell
16. Gail Sinclair
19. Anthony Godfrey
23. Roy Isaacson
24. Molly Kornegay
    Shaun Cobb
25. Barbara Hoke

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS: Susan Marshall, Baynard Boykin, John Shaylor, Ken Mays, Erline Vaughan, Art Delperdang, Jo McLeod, Merry Bradley, Carol Meckstroth, Gail Sinclair, Sally Huntley, Elizabeth Nash

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), 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), Marie Wilson, Angelyn DuRant (Melanie Newman's mother), Cade Hummel (son of Heather Stead Hummel), Robbie Bumgardner (Tom & Barbara Hoke's brother-in-law), Gair Heady (friend of the Massalons), Judy Gustafsin

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)

ELDER EMERITUS

PRESENTED TO JOAN CORBIN

BYG

ASSISTED LIVING VISITS

CORN MAZE

2026 TRUNK OR TREAT WINNERS

1st Place
Johnny & Amy Banks

2nd Place
Angie Guy

3RD Place
Ann Marie Weatherford

1ST PLACE YOUTH DIVISION
Katherine Wilcox

TROPHY PRESENTATION
THE BANKS & BRENT

BEST COSTUME WITH TRUNK

Jimmy & Rebecca Stokes

ALL TRUNK WINNERS

CANDY GUESSING CONTEST WINNERS

FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM, OUTREACH AND MINISTRIES

What a fun and busy month October was for our Bethesda church family! We enjoyed so many wonderful opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, and outreach, including installation and "blessing" of a BLESSING BOX on our campus for community, Lay Liturgist Class, the JOY Club trip to the South Carolina State Fair, Meals for Missions, Wednesday Meal Ministry, Monday morning Adult Bible Study, Tuesday Men's Breakfast, Presbyterian Women's meeting, Wednesdays BLAST, youth trips to McLeod Farms for the Corn Maze and to Judgement House, hosting the Camden Bulldogs football team for a pregame meal and devotional, and our annual Fall Festival/Trunk-or-Treat!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our annual Fall Festival/Trunk-or-Treat such a success! Thank you to those who donated their time, candy, and baked goods; decorated their vehicles for Trunk-or-Treat; and came out to participate in this wonderful event. It truly takes a village to pull off an event like this. Year after year, **YOU—the Bethesda Presbyterian Church family—**continue to make this outreach ministry to our church family and community such a wonderful success! Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and love with others!

It is hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is less than a month away! As we prepare to celebrate this special season, may we remember that thanksgiving is more than a day on the calendar—it is a posture of the heart.

Psalm 107:1 reminds us: *"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"* - Gratitude is our proper response to God's unchanging character. We do not give thanks only when life is easy — we give thanks because God is good, loving, and always faithful.

When we pause to count our many blessings — breath in our lungs, our daily bread, our family, church family, friends, and people we love, forgiveness and salvation through Christ — we are reminded that every good gift comes from the Lord. A grateful heart pushes back against worry, fear, pride, bitterness, and discontent. It recenters us on the love, goodness, and faithfulness of God. May our thankfulness lead us to worship, trust, generosity, and an attitude of gratitude.

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Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Once again, Bethesda is partnering with Samaritan's Purse through **Operation Christmas Child!** Actually, we have been collecting items for shoeboxes all year long! A special thank-you to Lisa Woolard and our Presbyterian Women (PW) group for spearheading this year-round collection effort. Thank you, also, to our entire church family for faithfully donating items and supplies to make this ministry possible. Just look at what Bethesda has accomplished over the past 11 years!

Bethesda's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection: 2015: 93 shoeboxes, 2016: 142 shoeboxes, 2017: 97 shoeboxes, 2018: 87 shoeboxes, 2019: 92 shoeboxes, 2020: 74 shoeboxes, 2021: 72 shoeboxes, 2022: 81 shoeboxes, 2023: 91 shoeboxes, 2024: 224 shoeboxes, **2025: 278 shoeboxes!**

What an incredible blessing! In 2024, we more than doubled our previous year's total, and in 2025, we reached another record with **278 shoeboxes!** Thank you, PW ladies, for leading this ministry, and thank you, Bethesda family, for your generosity and faithful support. Each shoebox is an opportunity to share God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ with a child around the world.

Several families have expressed an interest in packing shoeboxes together as a family, and we are excited to offer that opportunity again this year!

Here's how you can participate:

- **Pick up a shoebox:** Shoeboxes will be available next Sunday in McArn Hall.
- **Pack your shoebox:** Gather your family and choose age-appropriate gifts to fill your box.
- **Return your shoebox:** Please bring your completed shoebox to the church office no later than **Thursday, November 19**.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child and suggested items to include, visit Samaritan's Purse at samaritanspurse.org.

Would you like to experience this ministry firsthand? Join us for a church-wide mission/ministry trip to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Warehouse in Charlotte, North Carolina, on **Wednesday, December 9!**

We will meet at Bethesda at **3:30 p.m.** and return around **10:30 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside other members of our church family and help prepare shoebox gifts for children around the world.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Brent Kendall. Each participant must register using their own email address. Let Brent know you would like to attend, and he will send you the registration link. Registration takes only about 30 seconds! **This mission opportunity is open to everyone age 13 and older!**

As we look back on October and look ahead to Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, I am grateful for the many ways God continues to work through our Bethesda family. Thank you for your faithful service, generous hearts, and love for our church, our community, and the world.

May we continue to know God, love, glorify, and serve our Lord God—and give thanks for His goodness every day!

In Christ, Brent Kendall

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Presbyterian Women

Dear Ladies,

Happy Thanksgiving! I love this time of year when we focus on the bountiful blessings God gives us daily! May you remember his goodness all year long through all the ups and especially in the downs!

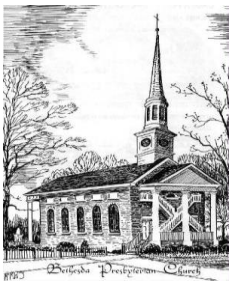
Again this year we are supporting our high school youth by praying for them and encouraging them through cards, candy, and small gifts. We generally bring the items to Circle, but you can drop them off in Brent's office anytime. I desperately need nine more people to adopt a youth. Some of us have adopted more than one child! Please let me know if you are willing to participate in this important mission at 803-427-2262.

We are quickly approaching the finish line for Operation Christmas Child. Collection week is November 16-23. We will plan to pack up the shoeboxes on November 15th at 5:30, hopefully, with the help of the youth again this year. For the next few weeks, we will focus on raising money to ship the boxes. Each box costs $10 to ship. Our goal this year is to ship 250 boxes; therefore, we need to raise $2,500! In addition to raising money, we will still be accepting any items you may have to help fill all those boxes. Once more, I am again so thankful for all the support for this endeavor. You are a blessing to so many children and to me!

Our next Circle meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10th at 10:30 in John Knox Hall. I am not privy to what Babs has planned for us, but I know it will be good!

The PWCT will meet on Monday, November 2nd at 10:00. I hope to see you all at Circle!

Lisa Woolard



Bethesda Presbyterian Church
502 DeKalb Street
Camden ,SC 29020

Return Service Requested

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The Sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas season. You may purchase a poinsettia to be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Names of donors and those honored will be listed in the church bulletin. The cost is $25.00. Checks should be made payable to Bethesda and put Flower Guild on the memo line. Due by Tuesday, November 24th.

To the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Name: _____

Given By: _____

To the glory of God and in honor of:

Name: _____

Given By: _____

To the glory of God:

Given By: _____

NOVEMBER 2026

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:30 BYG Daylight Savings Ends	2 10:00 PWCT 10:00 Bible Study 1:00 Congregational Care 4:30 Flower Guild	3 11:00 Worship 4:00 CE	4 2:30 BLAST 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Outreach 7:00 Adult Choir	5 5:30-6:30pm Meals for Missions	6	7
8 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 5:30 Handbells 7:00 Adult Choir	12	13	14
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	19 10:00 BINGO Shoeboxes due	20	21
22 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 5:00 Decorate 5:30 BYG	23 10:00 Bible Study	24 9:30 BCS Thanksgiving Program Poinsettia orders due	25 Church offices closed	26 THANKSGIVING Church offices closed	27 10:00 Property	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 9:45 Fellowship 10:00 SS 11:00 Worship 12:00 5th Sunday Luncheon 5:30 BYG	30					