



autumn  
2012

# bethesda news

Now there is in Jerusalem a pool called "Bethesda." Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed—waiting for the movement of the waters.

## Event Calendar

### **Saturday Clinic**

November 3, 2012

Grace Community Church

### **Saturday Clinic**

November 17, 2012

Christ Episcopal Church

### **Bethesda Alliance**

December 18, 2012 • 11:30 a.m.

Potpourri House

### **Bethesda Alliance**

January 15, 2013 • 11:30 a.m.

Potpourri House

### **Saturday Clinic**

January 26, 2013

Green Acres Baptist Church

### **Dr. Luke Banquet**

February 15, 2013

Willow Brook Country Club

### **Bethesda Alliance**

February 19, 2013 • 11:30 a.m.

Potpourri House

### **Bethesda Alliance**

March 19, 2013 • 11:00 a.m.

The Canterbury's

### **Bethesda Alliance**

April 16, 2013 • 11:30 a.m.

Potpourri House

### **Dia de las Madres**

May 15, 2013

### **President's Tea**

May 21, 2013 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Bethesda Clinic

### **10 Year Anniversary Celebration**

November 5, 2013 • 11:30 a.m.

Location TBA

To learn more about these events or Bethesda Health Clinic, contact us at: 409 W. Ferguson | Tyler, TX 75702 903.596.8353 [www.bethesdaclinic.org](http://www.bethesdaclinic.org)

## THE BETHESDA

# Ministry



*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms," 1 Peter 4:10*

To many people, the word "ministry" means a program of the church, and the word "missions" means something done overseas. In this edition of the newsletter we showcase the ways people of faith are finding their ministry and missions right here in Tyler through the work of Bethesda Clinic. These stories of local congregations serving at Bethesda underscore the important truth 1 Peter illuminates: It takes many people of faith to make ministry and missions successful, and there is a place in this work for all who want to serve.

As Ephesians 6:7 says, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men." Local congregations have taken this calling to action by offering their services at Bethesda's Saturday clinics. Expanding the weekday services offered by staff and volunteers, the all-volunteer Saturday clinics give congregations many ways to involve their members and give their members many ways to serve.

This newsletter also highlights a few of the inspirational stories played out at the clinic every day. As our committed staff and volunteers work diligently to impact the lives of those who turn to Bethesda Clinic for medical care, we are often present for those moments when desperation turns to hope, when despair turns to healing.

The Lord calls us to serve in whatever way we can, and He offers us opportunities for mission and ministry right here in our community. For those of you who are already involved, I hope this newsletter offers encouragement that your service is making a difference. For those searching for God's call, perhaps you will find it by joining God's people at Bethesda Clinic.



## POLLARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pollard United Methodist Church has a long-standing tradition of serving the Tyler Community. Bethesda Health Clinic is one of several local agencies Pollard UMC is dedicated to support both financially and through volunteer service each year. Our congregation is blessed to have medical professionals as well as a team of lay volunteers to assist patients at Bethesda's Saturday clinics. Many of these same doctors additionally volunteer their time to serve at Bethesda on weekends with other medical teams. Each of our member volunteers understand the important role Bethesda plays in the life of our community. Through the interaction with patients, each of our member volunteers also realizes the personal satisfaction gained through serving others.

—Ron Major  
*Mission Chair*

# Service



## GREEN ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH

Green Acres Baptist Church is honored to be a part of the ongoing work of the Bethesda Clinic. One Saturday each quarter, GABC volunteers "take over" the clinic, running everything from the phone calls to the medical visits. During this time, our volunteers are able to be the hands and feet of Christ to our very own neighbors in Tyler. With a long-standing history of local and international missions, GABC values the role of the local church to reach the world for Christ while never forgetting those across the street. Anyone can be on mission at Bethesda Clinic, as the clinic offers opportunities for both those in and out of the medical field. The service Bethesda Clinic provides to our community is invaluable, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work alongside other churches to address physical and spiritual needs around us.

—Dale Pond  
*Minister of Missions*



DAVID AND JOAN RIDDLE



DONNA HALE, PAM WATSON, CHRISTI JONES, JENNIFER JENNINGS, AND GINNY COVEY



DR. BILL SCROGGINS, MARY LOU LAYNE, PASTOR ROB FISHER, AND JUDY SHERMAN



SEATED: DEBBIE DONALDSON. BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: BARBARA MAJOR, RALPH SUAREZ, RON MAJOR, PAM FRANZEN.



## BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

It has been such a joy for the members of Bethel Bible Church to come to Bethesda, a place of healing waters, use the great facilities and share the gifts God has given us. Besides the usual medical, nursing, dental and clerical expertise, we have had psychologists, chiropractors, physical therapists, as well as amateur computer guys, carpenters, Spanish speaking translators, and child care workers all contribute tremendously. It truly is the body of Christ working together where all are needed, no one is more valuable than another, and the ministry could not work without each job being done.

I am reminded that it is truly more blessed to give than to receive, and we all have so much to learn from those who have had struggles in this world, often through no fault of their own. I believe that every Christian should prayerfully try to find some sort of missions to help the widow, the poor, the orphan locally, as well as to be invested globally to be a "world Christian". We will never look back and think we did too much in this arena. There can be even be opportunities to involve your children or grandchildren, modeling for them the character of Christ. **YOU CAN DO SOMETHING!**

—Lee Ridenour  
*Chairman Missions Committee*



MACHELLE MCDOWELL, DR. LLOYD OLSEN, AND JANE ROGERS



DONNA RIDENOUR AND GLADYS PERO



## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saturday clinics at Bethesda are a wonderful mission opportunity for our church. There are so many ways to serve at the clinics: doctors, nurses, receptionists, office workers, greeters, patient advocates, and even small construction jobs are all needed on any given Saturday.

Our congregation truly believes in mission work, and we all have a heart for serving Christ and His people. Our mission work in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and in other communities throughout the United States is important to us, but you don't have to travel far to go on a mission trip. God's work is right here in your own home town waiting to bless you as Christ Episcopal Church has been blessed.

—Laurel Beaty  
ECW Vice President

# Service



## GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Bethesda Clinic is a great local missions partner for Grace Community Church. We value the opportunity to volunteer and serve those in our local community by providing quality medical care. But, even more importantly we appreciate being able to contribute to the greater mission of both Bethesda and Grace by sharing the gospel, praying and setting the stage for life's critical conversations. Additionally, it's great knowing that by serving on Saturdays, patients are being seen more quickly and the workload is a little lighter for the great Bethesda staff. It's also very fulfilling to see how many Grace members started serving one Saturday per quarter, but moved on to serve more consistently or even join the staff.

—Brian Brandt  
Elder



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH VOLUNTEERS



LAUREL BEATY AND KAREN COURVILLE



SHARON CLARK AND LOU ANN BERMAN



## MARVIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Marvin United Methodist Church has a long history of helping others throughout the world through our many Mission Partners and it has always been a wonderful blessing to partner with our friends at Bethesda Health Clinic here locally. We always look forward to opening and staffing the clinic on different Saturday's throughout the year to ensure that our working adults in the community can receive the medical care they deserve without having to take off from work during the week. We have many physicians, nurses, support staff, and project people that are always excited when our "Saturday" comes around. God commands us frequently in the Bible to help the poor and those in need. Jesus commands us to love one another. Isn't it wonderful that we can follow both of these commands by giving just a little bit of our time at Bethesda Health Clinic?

Joseph Mitchum  
*Chair of Missions*

MELISSA BRIGMAN, JOSEPH MITCHUM AND ANN REESE



DR. ERIC SMITH, DR. STEVE SPAIN, MARIA PERADA AND AVIS BROWN





Tender  
Loving

# Care is contagious

*Donna Travis Kiggen never dreamed that something as simple as scratching a couple of mosquito bites could turn into a life threatening event with talk of amputation.*



Her saga began with a big surprise. Literally.

"I woke up one Sunday and my arm from the tip of my fingers to right above my elbow was swollen like a balloon," she recalls in gentle tones and descriptive gestures.

Too tired to move, she stayed home from church, but called her friend from Sunday school, Bethesda Clinic's beloved Director of Nurses Connie Sanchez early Monday morning.

"I tried to stay very calm," Donna reports.

Connie, on the other hand, immediately recognized the danger and insisted that Donna come right in to the clinic that morning. Dr. Grace English took one look at the wound and diagnosed a staph infection. She sent Donna straight to the emergency room.

"Staph infections are caused by staphylococcus bacteria, a type of germ commonly found on the skin or in the nose of even healthy individuals," according to [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com). The infections "can turn deadly" if the bacteria invade deeper, entering the bloodstream, joints, bones, lungs or heart.

At the emergency room, the wound was lanced and treated, and Donna was sent home with a prescription for antibiotics. However, after two days of attention, Donna developed a new symptom that worried her, a deep throbbing that indicated the

infection was not clearing up. "It felt like it was expanding."

Donna went back to Bethesda where Dr. Grace again handled the situation with a personal touch. "She picked up the phone herself and called the emergency room to communicate with them the severity of the situation," says Donna in her understated way.

After her second trip to the emergency room, exhausted and frightened, Donna called her pastor for advice. He counseled her to call Connie again without concern about being an imposition. "She (Connie) said, 'Come back over here.'"

The staff greeted her warmly and made her feel that all would be well. "Honey, we are going to take care of you," said Scheduler Mary Arroyo. Donna believes it is the personal attention she received at Bethesda in the weeks that followed that saved her arm and probably her life.

Providentially, a nurse who happened to specialize in wound care, Jeannie Ebnet, was volunteering that day. Jeannie packed salt gauze into the crevices of the wound in order to draw out as much of the toxin as possible. "Thank God they knew what to do," said Donna. On Sunday at church, Connie changed her bandages and checked the wound.

Dr. Sam Houston, a surgeon who regularly volunteers at the clinic, saw her at Bethesda a few days later. After the injection of a local anesthesia, he tenderly and meticulously cleaned the infection

# a patient's story

By Cathy Primer Krafve

from each layer of epidermis and muscle. When he was satisfied that he had gone deep enough, Dr. Houston stopped. Donna knew immediately that the surgery was a success because he had warned her that if he cut to the bone, it would be more serious, perhaps even precipitating a possible amputation.

Within weeks, Donna was regaining her energy and feeling like her old self, with a fully

functioning arm that was beginning to look and feel normal again.

Having two arms means something important to Donna. "I can wrap them both around other people and hug them. Everybody needs a hug," she says with her gentle smile.

Bethesda Clinic's tender loving care for Donna means that she can now reciprocate, hugging everyone she wants—with both arms.

• • •

***“Donna believes it is the personal attention she received at Bethesda in the weeks that followed that saved her arm and probably her life.”***

• • •

DONNA WITH DR. SAM HOUSTON



# help, *hope,*

Bethesda Alliance recently hosted their popular Birthday Bash featuring celebrity cake decorating and auction. The annual event was attended by some 300 guests and raised much needed funds for the clinic's operations and services.

Blynn, Jeff  
and Emily  
Austin



# Birthday Bash

Eleanor  
Stringer and  
Rev. John  
Robbins



Michael Lujan, Lisa Lujan, Kat Stokes, Larry Stokes, Billy Hibbs



Dr. Sunni  
Boren



# and happenings



Annette Findley,  
Laverne Gollob,  
Teresa Butcher  
and Tickie West



Dr. Shanna  
and Anthony  
Meads



Margaret and Jim Perkins



Drs. Larry Anderson and Sasha Vukelja  
and Sonya Hribel



Sarah Thomason, Kristy Howell, Kasi McWha, Ellen Krafve

Diagnosis: Physical and Spiritual

# Healing

By Cathy Primer Krafve



*Todd Raabe, M.D., approached missions with the same perspective you would expect from a physician: diagnosis first. What is working? What's not? Where are we having an impact? Where could we do more?*

***“You want to care for patients like Christ would care for them. He didn't provide a second class gospel,” said Dr. Todd Raabe. “We determined from the outset to provide only first class care.”***

More than ten years ago, traveling throughout East Texas with Abe Zabaneh, Mission Director of First Baptist Church, Todd saw firsthand what the church was supporting with their mission dollars. Many good things were happening, including some ingenious contributions like playground equipment at apartment complexes and outreach Bible studies.

“Our conversation was about how to do more to reach people in Tyler. For a downtown church that was 150 years old, that was an unusual conversation, but First Baptist Church was serious about it.”

The need for a clinic for the working uninsured was an idea that kept coming up, and every time it did the key to success was clear. As committed as First Baptist was, this was an opportunity for mission that was bigger than one church. “It had to be a coalition of churches, not one church, but THE church, if it was going to be successful.”

Long committed to mission work, Todd and his wife, Vicki, had participated in a series of mission trips. Chairing First Baptist’s Mission Board was “a real education for me,” says the man with the M.D. after his name. Surrounded by retired missionaries, many of whom also had children serving as missionaries overseas, Todd found himself in a group of heavy-hitters who were serious about outreach. Soon the pieces began to fall into place.

First Baptist offered to rent a neighboring building for \$1 a year. Donated by the Skidmore family, at 11,000 square feet it was just the right size, but covered with a leaky roof, it required extensive repair and renovation. “As daunting as it seemed, God met every need,” says Todd, “It was incredible how that bolstered my faith because I thought that was an insurmountable task.”

Soon, open meetings inviting any and all who would come began to attract the community-wide coalition needed to make the idea of a clinic successful.

“From day one we did not just talk about how we were going to meet physical needs, but how we were going to meet spiritual needs, too,” says Todd. The early days of the clinic were full of lessons in “make do” and “learn as you go”.

Shower curtains provided privacy for makeshift exam rooms. Trained as an orthopedic surgeon, Todd tagged along behind the late Dr. Keith Frazier, a general practitioner, and jokingly referred to himself as Dr. Frazier’s “resident”.

As needs outgrew resources, Todd prepared patients’ records in packets and hand-delivered them to specialists, asking for their help in treating patients. “Uniformly, doctors stepped up to care for the patients,” Todd reports proudly, recognizing that without the universal support of the medical community and area churches, the clinic could not

exist. “If you are going to do something like Bethesda, what better place to do it than Tyler, Texas?”

Todd is amazed at the plans God established and the care He expressed in creating the clinic. For himself, Todd can’t wait to see what the future holds, including a personal dream; bringing his oldest son, who is now 17, along soon to see patients with him. “I want him to translate,” says the proud father, commenting on his son’s combined interest in Spanish, medicine, and missions.

“Vicki and I have been really blessed because we have always been of one heart throughout our marriage. She has always drawn me closer to God,” says Todd, crediting his wife with understanding the long hours his commitment to Bethesda entailed and joining him in their financial commitment to the clinic.

“Bethesda has also drawn us closer to God. To be able to give back; to make a difference not only physically, but spiritually has been a real blessing to us.”

According to this devoted surgeon and servant, a physical hurt like a broken arm can be fixed with a few screws. It is the relationship with Jesus Christ that offers the hope for spiritual healing that so many people desperately need. Todd Raabe is proud that Bethesda Clinic offers both.



**Bethesda**  
HEALTH CLINIC  
Bringing Healing, Help and Hope

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