

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



Week of February 14, 2021

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service.

Included will be the usual newsletter information, along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"Air"

Gordon Young

Words of Welcome and Announcements

- A reminder that Something More will not meet for the next three weeks. It will resume on March 3rd at 3 pm.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the rest of the bulletin

Minute for Missions

Cub & Boy Scouts

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 19)

One: This we know that the Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

All: the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

One: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

All: the commandments of the Lord are clear, enlightening the eyes; More to be desired are they than gold; sweeter also than the drippings of the honeycomb.

One: Let us obey all God's commands and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Hymn of Praise

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Hymn 23

Prayer of Confession (Thomas Merton, "Thoughts in Solitude")

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself and the fact that I think that I am following Your will, does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust You always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.

Gloria

"Glory be to the Father"

Hymn 734

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Time for all God's Children

Scripture

Judges 6:11-16, Matthew 17:20

Women's Trio

"Good Old Gospel Singing"

Fettke

Sermon

Gideon; The Man Who Moved a Mountain

Moses led the people of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. After his death, Joshua became their leader and took them into the Promised Land. But what happened after both of these men had died? The people of Israel turned away from the Lord and began worshipping the gods in the land where they had settled. Things did not go well. They were oppressed by a variety of enemies, because the Lord's protection had been withdrawn when they turned their backs on him. However, in response to their cries for deliverance, God forgave them. He rose up a group of people known as judges. They were called judges because they helped to arbitrate disputes that arose among the people, but they were also military leaders who helped the Israelites to regain their freedom. Like Moses and Joshua, the Israelites believed that these judges were chosen by God. Under their leadership the Israelites renewed their allegiance unto the Lord and were willing to live by his laws and ordinances. But their commitment only lasted as long as the lifespan of these judges. After each one of them died, they fell back into their old ways. Once again they faced oppression and cried out for deliverance and once again God forgave them and appointed a new judge to lead them. Beginning this Sunday and continuing for the next two Sundays we will be taking a look at three of these judges. This morning we begin with a man named Gideon.

The story of his life is recorded for us in the book of Judges in the Old Testament, beginning with the first verse in Chapter 6 and ending all the way over in Chapter 8, verse 35. It is the story about a man who rose from obscurity to become a national hero. More importantly, it is the story of a man of faith, the kind of faith that can move a mountain, or in this instance, a mountain of Midianite marauders who had devastated the countryside. So let's begin by taking a look at his life as revealed in the Scriptures. We'll discover a man who gradually came to the place where he was willing to put his wholehearted trust in the Lord and when the chips were down, did not hesitate to risk all in obedience to what the Lord had told him to do.

The Calling: An angelic visitor at the wine press in the valley—Judges 6:1-24

The Confrontation: The midnight destruction of a pagan sanctuary—Judges 6:25-32

The Fleece: The affirmation of the sheared wool and the dew—Judges 6:33-40

The Winnowing: The reduction of a huge army to a force of merely 300—Judges 7:1-8

The Dream: The confirmation conversation in the enemy camp—Judges 7:9-15

The Victory: The destruction of the Midianites and their allies—Judges 7:16-25

With his victory over the Midianites, Gideon was now a respected leader among his people. No one doubted that he had been chosen by God to be a judge, a ruler of the people. In fact, they were willing to make him their king, a move which he wisely rejected. All in all he was a good man, but he wasn't perfect. An inappropriate relationship and the construction and veneration of a richly ornamented ephod, a vestment which was reserved for the priesthood of Israel, blemished his otherwise sterling reputation. But what endures as an example for us to follow is his faith. Let's take a look at his faith this morning and see how it applies to our lives, in our own day and time.

First of all, Gideon didn't possess a great deal of faith. He didn't have much faith in himself and he wasn't too sure about God. When confronted by the angel of the Lord at the wine press, he said, "I'm the least of my father's sons and my father belongs to the least of the clans in the tribe of Manasseh. And besides, I've heard about all of the great things that the Lord did for our ancestors when he brought them up out of the land of Egypt, but where is he now? He has abandoned us into the hands of the Midianites." Now you tell me, do you think Gideon was a man of great and wondrous faith? No, he was just the opposite. He possessed almost none at all, either in himself or in the Lord, but notice what the angel said to him, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel." In other words, it was not the amount of faith that Gideon possessed, but the fact that he had at least some and the Lord knew that that would be enough to defeat the Midianites.

That is what Jesus was talking about when he told his disciples, "If you have faith, even as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20). Jesus was responding to the disappointment of His disciples. They had tried to heal a boy who suffered from seizures and had failed. They wanted to know why. So He told them, "Doing God's work, like healing a sick boy, requires faith, but not a great deal of it, just a little bit, even as small an amount as the size of a mustard seed. And when you possess that kind of faith you can move a mountain." I've always wondered where this conversation took place. Some think that it was at the foot of Mount Hermon, which by the way is the biggest and tallest mountain in Israel. In other words, sometimes all it takes to do the impossible is a little faith.

And just in case you're wondering if there is any proof of that in the physical world in which we live, let me share this example with you. Have any of you ever seen a nuclear submarine? Living in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, I had the opportunity to see a number of them, especially the smaller attack submarines. Do you know how much nuclear fuel it takes to run one of these attack submarines on a typical six month deployment? I was told that it takes an amount which is about the size of a stick of juicy fruit chewing gum. That's not much, especially when you consider the fact that the nuclear fuel on that sub not only provides propulsion, but also generates all of the energy necessary for the entire life support system of the vessel.

So a whole lot can come from a little bit. That was true with regards to Gideon's faith and that is certainly true for you and me. I wish I was a man of great and abiding faith. In fact, faith is one of the spiritual gifts that Paul identifies in his first letter to the Corinthians. I've met a number of

people who possessed that gift and they are wonderful, godly individuals. But to be perfectly honest, a humongous supply of faith is not one of my strong points and the same may be true for you. We struggle with regards to our own self-confidence at times and yes, we sometimes have our doubts about God. Where is He? Why has He let this happen to us, or on a grander scale, why has He let this happen to our nation? Like Gideon, we find ourselves hiding in a valley, trying to harvest a little bit of grain at a winepress, depressed, a little frightened and definitely worried about the future. If you find yourself in that situation, take heart. With even a mustard seed of faith, you can move a mountain, no matter what kind of mountain it may be. For when we place our trust in the Lord, even what little bit we might possess, all things are possible. Or as Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

But here's a word of warning! When we place our trust in the Lord, we need to proceed with caution. I've heard a number of stories about people whose misplaced faith got them into all kinds of trouble. In some instances they have even lost their lives. While I can tell you all kinds of stories about people who let their misguided faith run away with them, I'd rather tell you one that is a bit more lighthearted. A rather scatterbrained young man who was always coming up with rather grandiose ideas about himself, dropped by the pastor's office one day. He told the pastor, "The other evening I looked up in the sky and saw two golden letters, "P" and "C." I think that means that I am supposed to go and preach Christ." Knowing that this excitable young man was unsuited for the ministry, the pastor responded, "I'm not sure in your case that these two letters mean 'preach Christ.' Rather, I think they mean that you should go home to your father, who is a farmer and 'plant corn.'"

If nothing else, the story of Gideon reminds us that he possessed a cautious faith. When the angel appeared and spoke to him, Gideon asked for a sign to make sure that this individual really was from the Lord. And later when he summoned the Israelites for battle, he once again checked things out with the Lord using a fleece, not once but twice. The first time the fleece was supposed to be wet and the ground around it dry and then just to make sure it was not a fluke of nature, he did it again, but in reverse order, a dry fleece and wet ground around it. And then, lastly, there was the dream. This time the Lord reassured him of victory by sending him down into the Midianite camp so that he could overhear the dream of one of the enemy soldiers foretelling their imminent defeat. Gideon knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that he was doing exactly what the Lord wanted him to do.

Like Gideon, we too need to possess a cautious faith, especially when we're considering a decision that could have serious consequences for ourselves and others and its more than just checking out the circumstances surrounding that decision. Everything may be lining up just right, but that doesn't mean that we have the green light to proceed. We need to investigate what God's Word, the Bible, has to say. God will never ask us to violate His written word. We also need to check things out with godly individuals who are really in touch with the Lord. Sometimes these folks can provide insights that we would never have thought about on our own. Proverbs 12:15 states, "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice." Finally, we need to listen to that inner voice, the Holy Spirit. In John 14: 26, Jesus promises, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." On more than one occasion someone has said to me, "I just knew down deep, that I was making a bad decision and I went right ahead and did it anyway. I

failed to listen to counsel of the Holy Spirit and that was a big mistake.” We may not be visited by angels, or have the reassurance of wondrous phenomena, but the fact of the matter is we have spiritual resources that were simply not available to Gideon. We have the Bible, godly advisers and the Holy Spirit to help guide us. We need to use and rely upon them so that our faith is not just a flighty exercise in futility, but a successful reliance upon the leadership of the Lord.

Before closing, there is one more thing that I need to share with you. Remember the Disney TV show years ago about Davey Crockett? Remember what he said over and over again, sort of his motto in life, “Be sure you’re right and then go ahead.” Well, Gideon was that kind of man. Once he was sure of what the Lord was asking him to do, he didn’t waste any time. After visiting the camp of the Midianites and overhearing the soldier’s dream, he and his three hundred men immediately attacked the Midianites. They put their faith to work. Otherwise everything that the Lord had commanded them to do would have been for naught.

The same is true for you and me, whether we’re talking about our own personal faith, or something that involves an entire church family, we must put our faith to work. Otherwise we’re just wasting our time. This truth was eloquently expressed by an old Scottish ferryman years ago. He would row passengers across a loch in Scotland. One of those passengers noticed that he had carved the word, “faith” on one oar and the word, “works” on the other. Curious he asked why. The Scotsman replied, “I’ll show thee.” Using the oar named “faith” by itself, the little rowboat spun around in circles. He then switched to the other oar named “works” and did the same thing. Once again the rowboat spun in circles. Then pulling with both oars equally and at the same time, the oarsman straightened up the little rowboat and rowed it across the water to the distant shore. Speaking to his passenger he said, “You see, that is the way it is in the Christian life. Dead works without faith are useless and faith without works is dead also, getting you nowhere, but faith and works pulling together make for safety, progress and blessing.”

That’s what Gideon discovered a long, long time ago. A little faith can go a long ways, it can even move mountains, just so long as it is firmly rooted in what the Lord wants us to do and just so long as we are courageous enough to actually act upon it. The same is true for you and me. So take that mustard seed of faith and put it to work.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Solo

“Small as a Mustard Seed”

Bickhardt

Affirmation of Faith

Creed

Myself, do not forget God’s teaching, but let your heart keep His commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Doxology

“Doxology”

Hymn 44

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Father, we ask You to bless not only our friends and relatives but all those that You care deeply for. Show them a new revelation of Your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask You to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through Your grace. Where there is need, I ask you to fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings, and their comings. Amen.

Lord's Prayer- Now let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Song

"May Your Presence Go With Us"

Don Moen

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction (from:#SusieLarsonBlessings)

May God's opinion matter far more to you than man's opinion. May His dreams for you speak louder than your fears. May you refuse to read into situations that make you anxious. May Jesus' promise to protect and provide be enough for you. May His forgiveness wash over every sin from your past. And may you rise up in the knowledge that He's made you brand new, through and through. No spot or stain on you!

Postlude

"Voluntary"

Samuel Wesley



Lent Begins February 17th

If you are interested in a devotional to follow during Lent, there are some at the back of the Sanctuary and in the hallway outside the office.

Beginning today and for the next two Sundays, Reverend Parker will be preaching a series of sermons from the Old Testament book of Judges. He will be speaking about three of them—Gideon, Deborah and Samson. Listed below are the sermon titles and the various passages of Scripture upon which each of these messages is based. However, to learn more about each of these judges, it might be good to read the entire story of their lives prior to each Sunday. (Those passages of Scripture are indicated within the parentheses.)

February 14, “Gideon, the Man Who Moved a Mountain,”
Judges 6:11-16 and Matthew 17:20 (Judges 6:1-8:35)

February 21, “Deborah, the Mother of Israel,”
Judges 4:1-10 and John 4:28-29 (Judges 4:1-5:31)

February 28, “Samson, the Man Who Tried to Serve Two Masters,”
Judges 13:1-7 and Matthew 6:24 (Judges 13:1-16:31)



Concerns- February 14th

- Avery:** Rev. Frank and for Tinkie who has dementia
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) health issues
Eunice- sciatica, torn rotator cuff, doing better
Passing of sister, Kathleen Gray
- Benton:** Roger (friend) in rehab
- Blair:** Katy Neel- (LHS student) lymphoma- chemo
Tonya Blair's friend-(Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer
- Boone:** Jim Hedrick - (friend) recovering from partial lung removal
Judy Jockets- (sister's friend) lung cancer
Jim Cutler- (LHS teacher) stage 4 lung cancer
Dennis S. - terminal pancreatic cancer
Jean- (cousin) home after battling covid, has COPD
Kenny Johnson-(friend) heart attack
- Casdorff:** friend who had quadruple bypasses
- Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers
Prayers for friends to come to the Lord
Bob- (friend) Parkinson's
Michael Compter-(brother) heart failure
- Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems
Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care
Ryan- (grandson) searching for his faith
- DeWitt-** Tammy's mom in rehab, dad is home
- Dills:** Katy Neel- lymphoma- chemo
- Fain:** Dianne- stents inserted, home, doing well
- Fleming:** family dealing with addiction and self- esteem
Their children- having difficulties
- Foster:** Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer
Marian Kelly- (friend) breast cancer, mother's caretaker
Craig Nielson-(nephew) in hospital with covid
Howard-(Tom's brother) thyroid and other health issues
Tom- pneumonia
- Goodman:** Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer
Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice
- Grigg:** Danny Miller- (co-worker) bladder cancer
- Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems
- Kuhn- Kibbey:** Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's
Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration
Grandson- alcoholism
Dan Withers- (friend) inoperative cancer

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) medical issues

Gayle- recovering from carpal tunnel surgery, home and doing well

Meyers: Patty- doing better

Patty McKinney- (friend) paraplegic fell, broke both knees and leg, home now

Mitchell: Bill-not doing well, after effects of radiation

Morris: Lisa (Robert's wife) lung cancer, beginning treatment

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Riley: Christine- fell, injured arm

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) doing well, still undergoing chemo

Ronnie- worried about children

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny- (son) colon cancer

Mike Shelton- Lynchburg ICU, infection, doing better

Smith: Dorothy Smith (John's mother) moved into assisted living; pray she comes to the Lord

Bill & Marie Walker- (Sonya's parents) continue doing well

Stetson: David Wykle- passed away, prayers for family

Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Dr. Fessler- went blind, in hospital

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Mike Elliston- asthma

Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer, covid-19

Russell- upcoming knee surgery, May 5th

Toney: Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer

Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

Steve- (son) has covid

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel- (friend) MS

Prayers for all front line workers, Drs, nurses, first responders

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different

Three more ways to support Bedford Presbyterian



CREDIT CARD! -- If you wish to make a donation to the Church using your credit card, go to the Bedford Presbyterian Website and look for the **DONATE** button. Donations through the website will be charged a 2% processing fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

CLICK for more information: <https://www.bedfordpresbyva.org/donate.html>



SHOP ONLINE! – on your web browser or cell phone app shop at Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). Register Bedford Presbyterian as your charity of choice and Amazon will .5% of your entire eligible purchase price to the church.

CLICK for more information: <https://smile.amazon.com/>



SHOP IN THE STORE – Link your Kroger Card to Bedford Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice and a percentage of all your purchases will be contributed to the church.

Click for more information: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

It's not much.... but every little bit helps.



Capital Campaign

The funds raised by the 175th campaign are nearly depleted and a new campaign "Moving in Faith" has begun to address some exterior maintenance and repair issues, as well as some interior lighting upgrades. Some items are critical such as painting the steeple. Others, like new doors to the fellowship hall and sanctuary are not so critical but will soon become so. Our goal is \$45,000.00 over the next two years. Move forward in faith and give to the "Moving in Faith" capital campaign.

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution (also 5 ¢ a meal and Heifer) or you
can drop by the office, Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4pm.**

Activities for week of February 14th

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
5 ¢ a Meal Offering
Prayer time in fellowship hall after service

Monday: Quilters- 6 pm

Tuesday: NO Something more, resumes March 3rd

Sunday: February 21st
10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
Prayer time in fellowship hall after service

February Birthday

Rev. Frank Avery -15
John Salley -23
Janis Easter - 26
Richard Overstreet -27
Karen Overstreet -28

Here's a list of our shut-ins, please take time to send a card or
give them a call, to let them know you are thinking of them.

Covid Shut-ins

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cram
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Heinrich
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Kibbey
Mr. & Mrs. Al Mauser
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Neal
Ms. Lynne Palmer
Mrs. Christine Riley
Mrs. Judy Toney
Ms. Gloria Saunders
Mr. Ronnie Saunders
Ms. Mary Wilkes

Long Term Shut-ins

Anne Arthur
Rev. Frank & Tinkie Avery
Pat Clarke
Janet Eagler
Ann Fowler
Dorinda Hopkins
Doris Koch
Ruby Page