

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of January 30<sup>th</sup>

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 yet.

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.



*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**

*"Amazing Grace"*

Diane Bish

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Something More will meet Tuesday, at 3 pm.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

O God, You who gave us birth and who walks with us through all our life, we come to You today to worship and praise You. We call Your name and You answer us. In every age of life You give us what we need. Help us today to have ears to hear the message of Your faithfulness and to celebrate the ways in which You help us to cope with the challenges we face at every age. Surround this congregation today with Your presence, Your love, Your grace. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

### **\*Hymn of Praise**

*"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

Hymn 82

### **\*Prayer of Confession:**

This is the day that You have made, Lord. Help us to rejoice in it and be glad! Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as Your people: to come to You in these moments, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and give it, to pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all Your promises. Open our eyes to see You, Lord. Open our ears to hear Your Word. Visit us through Your Holy Spirit and help us to celebrate our faith. Amen.

### **\*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 to the Father"*

Bill Rutledge

## **Proclaiming the Word of God**

### **Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture**

1 Samuel 1: 20-28, 2:18-21

**Worship Song**

*"There is None Holy as the Lord"*

Gary Garrett

As if he were not in enough trouble already, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Cabinet were all dining together in a very posh London restaurant. When the waiter asked the P.M. what he wanted to eat, Boris replied; *"I'll have the roast beef please."* The waiter then asked, *"And what about the vegetables?"* Without looking up Boris replied, *"They will have the same."*

We may complain about our leaders – but good leadership is essential in all areas of life:

- We need good leadership in our homes,
- We need good leadership in our Churches,
- We need good leadership in our nation!

At the close of the book of Judges, the Hebrew nation certainly had no good leaders and everyone was still doing what was right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25). Yet the LORD was still at work, shaping Israel's destiny according to His plan. David, the *'man after God's own heart,'* who would begin the kingly lineage of Jesus, had not yet been born, but God was setting up his stage (Acts 13:22-23, Ruth 4:17).

It is amazing how God uses ordinary people in ordinary situations to fulfill His purposes. After the story of Ruth and Boaz, we are now introduced to another everyday family who nevertheless has a significant part to play in what God was doing those days.

Here in the opening of the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel, we meet a man named Elkanah and his two wives, one of whom was childless, and the other prolific. Though not forbidden, it is never a good domestic arrangement for a man to have multiple wives and the few incidents of such recorded in the Bible always point out the pitfalls that occur.

Once upon a time, a Mormon polygamist was arguing with Mark Twain over the issue of having more than one wife. The polygamist declared, *"Nowhere in the Bible does it say a man can't have two wives."* Mark Twain replied, *"Sure it does."* *"Where?"* demanded the polygamist. Twain answered, *"Didn't Jesus say, 'You cannot serve two masters.'"*

His first wife Hannah, though childless, was deeply loved by Elkanah and shown favor over her rival. So, to even the score, the other wife Peninnah would taunt Hannah over her barrenness, especially during their annual visits to the Tabernacle of the Lord, where Hannah would certainly be offering prayers for a child (1 Samuel 1:5,6). Since, the Hebrew people looked upon children as a sign of God's blessing, to be childless was considered to be under the curse of God. In fact childlessness was a valid ground for divorce.

But Elkanah loved Hannah and in his own clumsy way he would try to comfort her. He says, *'Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?'* (1:8). Elkanah is doing what many of us husbands do when our wives are upset. He gets some points at least for noticing her grief, but instead of listening to her pain, he tries to rationalize her problems and feelings away. He's trying to solve when he should be seeking to understand. To add a bit more salt in the wound... He's basically saying, *"Baby, you've got me, what more could you want?"*

Husbands, let's learn a lesson here that I am still working very hard and mastering ... there are times when our problem solving is not what our wife needs... sometimes all she needs is to be held. We don't have to have all the answers, but the fact that we see their pain and empathize with it is enough. Elkanah could better have said, *"Honey, if you want to talk I am here to*

*listen"... if you want to be held, I am here to hold you... if you want me to problem solve, I will try."*

Instead Hannah gets up from the table and goes to talk with someone who does understand; she presented herself once again to the Lord and begins fervently praying a prayer she may have uttered many times before.

*'O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.* (1:11)

So strong were her emotions, so intense was her prayer, that the old priest Eli chastises her for being drunk in church, but after she explains herself, he sends her away with a blessing, *Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.*' And God did.

Hannah was wonderfully transformed when the old priest 'spoke the peace' over her, adding his prayer to hers, and his blessing to her petition. She was able to rejoin the feast and she was no longer sad (1 Samuel 1:18). The name "Hannah" means "*a woman of grace,*" Grace means 'unmerited, undeserved, favor or kindness'. God heard Hannah's prayer and soon after graced her with a son. As his name suggests, Samuel was a child asked for, a gift of God's love (1 Samuel 1:20).

After Samuel's birth, Elkanah and family continued their annual visits to worship at the tabernacle in Shiloh, but Hannah decides to not go again until Samuel was weaned, which would have been at around three-years-old. For those three years she dedicated herself to her child, nursing and nurturing him, knowing that when he is able to eat on his own, she will need to keep her promise, *"that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and remain there forever."*

Many people make promises to God, only to forget them once the problem passes. Not so with Hannah, she fully intended to keep her promise because she knew that Samuel did not really belong to her anyway. So for the rest of her life, Hannah dedicated herself to her child in the same way as she dedicated her child to the Lord.

We may think it absurd that a parent who had so fervently prayed for a child would now leave that three-year-old child in another's care. But while she left Samuel under the care of Eli, she never gave up her parental responsibility. The story records that, *his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.* (1 Samuel 2:19).

That this child was indeed special is hinted at by several verses.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.... and [he] continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people. 1 Samuel 2:18-26

Even as young as three-years-old, Samuel was able to worship. How do you think he learned how to do this? Hannah no doubt took the exhortation of Deuteronomy 6:6-7 seriously:

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.  
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

It's one thing to say that our children are dedicated to the Lord; it's another thing altogether to give them to the Lord. That's the kind of love that Hannah had for Samuel.

Having presented Samuel to the Lord, placing him in the care of Eli, Hannah then offers a lengthy prayer of praise and thanksgiving. We don't have time today to plumb the depths of Hannah's psalm of praise, but let me point out that there is no element of sadness here at all.

- Having just dropped off Samuel at the Tabernacle, Hannah breaks out in praise.
- She was thrilled to be able to parent a priest little knowing that one day he would also grow to God's next prophet following Moses.

Listen to the opening of her prayer:

*My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. "There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:1-2)*

Here is the heart of a woman of faith who saw the power of God work in her life. He took away her barrenness and gave her a son. Instead of being sad about the circumstance of leaving her son behind at the Tabernacle...she lifts up her head and her heart and rejoices in the greatness of God

Hannah is an example of a woman of faith.

- She endures years of silent suffering because of her barrenness and the cruel harassment at the hand of her rival, Penninah.
- She still goes regularly to the house of worship, knowing how painful it will be.
- She faithfully worships, pouring out her tears and petitions.
- And when God answers her prayers, she not only keeps her promise, she explodes with praise.

Ladies, you are of great worth in God's sight whether or not you have a child. Lift up your head and realize that God loves you for who you are, not for what you do. He understands your sorrow and your pain and He'll meet you right where you are.

Mothers, make it your mission to give your children to the Lord and then raise them to live a lifetime of dedicated service. There's no greater purpose and no higher honor, than to have your children give their lives in surrendered service to the Lord of Hosts.

And concluding her part in the story, after Hannah left Samuel in the care of Eli, the Lord blessed her with three more sons and two daughters (2:21).

Now, as you continue reading through the book of 1 Samuel, you will discover that Eli had two adult sons, Hophni and Phineas, who were also serving as priests for the Tabernacle, yet they were evil and did some perverse and detestable things.

It's very interesting that their mother is never mentioned anywhere. We don't know if she died or if she was just not engaged as a parent. And while Eli warned his son of the graveness of their sins, yet he was unable to control them. Samuel, on the other hand, was greatly impacted by his mother, and went on to become one of the most significant individuals in God's redemptive history.

Both parents realize that you matter greatly to your kids and to the very future of our nation! If you want your children to learn about God and to grow up loving Him with all they possess, they must first see this devotion demonstrated in your life. It's got to be real in your life.

As we continue on in the story of Samuel, we can watch him grow in faith and power of the Lord as well as honor before the people. Scripture records...

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord. ` (I Samuel 3:19-21).

Sadly at the same time, because of the sins of his sons, we will watch the downfall not only of Eli, but the rest of the family related to him as well. Sin does have such destructive power in the life of a family. But this is a story for another day.

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So in closing, what lessons can we take home from this story of Hannah and Samuel?

First, realize that even as dedicated believers, we will encounter real life problems; these problems can actually be gifts from God. Hannah was at first barren because God had intentionally closed her womb so that He may open it at just the right time; first with the birth of Samuel and then with five more children. (1:6, 2:21).

And Realize the power of intense prayer... turn to God in times of trouble and distress and pray... pray till something happens. Take a lesson from the postage stamp; it sticks to one thing till it gets there. In both your victories and trials, be a person of faithful prayer.

Also, be a person of your word. Honor your vows the Lord. Be faithful regardless of the problems in your life, knowing that God is walking with you even through the darkest valleys.

And finally, whatever your circumstances, be a person of praise. Praise sets the attitude of your heart. Choose to praise in spite of what's happening in your life.

These are things we should pray about and faithfully practice for the rest of our lives.

### **Response to the Word of God**

***Worship Song***

*"How Great is Our God"*

Chris Tomlin

***Affirmation of Faith***

Celtic Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, He died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day He rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present and His kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

***Doxology***

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

***Sharing of Joys and Concerns***

***Prayers of the People***

Blessed Giver of All: what is love but giving? What is love, but offering back to You what we have already received from Your overflowing grace and care? Like Hannah giving Samuel into Your ministry, bless our gifts, we pray, that they may be used in acts of love. Bless our lives and our children's lives with peace and justice and mercy, so that we and our children may pass these gifts on to others as we work for the coming of Your reign upon earth. Help us to see what You see and respond as You would respond. This we ask in the name of Your son whom You gave to us so that we might also be blessed. Amen.

### ***Lord's Prayer***

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 Hymn***

*"Forth in Your Name"*

Hymn 718

### **The Sending Forth**

### ***Benediction***

Like young Samuel growing before the Lord, may you grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

### ***Postlude***

*"Hymn of Praise"*

James Denton

## Joys – January 30<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Christy- grateful for time spent with sister

**Joy-** Stetson- joy granddaughter staying with her

## Concerns- January 30<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer

**Benton:** Linda Crawford- (friend) passed away

Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Carolyn- (friend) diagnosed with bone cancer

**Blair:** Tonya Blair's friend (Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer

Troops deployed to South Africa

Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Chris & Tonya- covid

**Boone:** Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) waiting on PET scan results

**Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

**Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Nancy Holmes- (friend) stage 4 ovarian cancer, chemo, surgery

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

Roy – more medical testing

**Easter:** Joe Donahue (friend) passed away

Ruby Key (friend) foot is not healing

**Fleming:** family dealing with addiction and self-esteem

Their children- having difficulties

Christopher- grandson- cancer

**Foster:** Joyce Abbott- (former member) hospice

**Gillespie:** Elsie (Paul's mother) end stage Alzheimer's

**Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant

**Graboyes:** Leslie's dad- fell broke hip, recovering from surgery

**Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse

**Harris:** Judy- having difficulty swallowing, eating

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Hopkins:** Mark- colon cancer, chemo

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** Nancy & Jeff Milton (friend) both in memory care

Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches

**McManis:** those suffering from starvation in foreign countries

Areas hit by tornados especially hospitals

**Meyers:** Brother and great nephew covid  
**Morris:** Robert, (sexton) wife Lisa, home, on heart monitor  
**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders  
Forensic scientists who deal with crime  
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home  
Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma  
**Neal:** Harold, home, on oxygen  
Whitney Janet's (friend) kidney removed  
**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease  
**Norwid:** Ed & Eileen- both sick for several weeks  
**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis  
Brett- home, doing well and seizure free  
**Rutledge:** Sherry (friend) covid complications  
**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)  
Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer  
**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer  
Sonny (son) colon cancer, recovering from surgery  
**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord  
Bill Walker- (Sonya's dad) good results from tests  
**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression  
Kaleb- (grandson) pneumonia, possible feeding tube  
Dr. Fessler- ill in hospital  
**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Duncan Elliston- (fireman)  
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer  
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery  
**Toney:** Wesley-(grandson) Crohn's disease  
**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS  
Eleanor- (Nancy's mom) end of days  
**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues. Some improvement  
Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers far family

### **Prayers for Afghanistan citizens**

**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 for those infected**

**Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different**

**Prayers on ways to help Massanetta, who are hosting 50+ Afghan immigrants**

**Prayers for those that were affected by the tornados**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### **Activities for week of January 30<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
9 am Sunday School in fellowship hall  
Prayer Time following service  
Monday: Cubs  
Tuesday: 3 pm Something More  
6 pm Quilters  
Sunday: February 6<sup>th</sup>  
9 am Sunday School in fellowship hall  
10 am Worship  
Communion  
Prayer Time following service

### **February Birthdays**

Kathy Dills - 4  
Judy Blair - 6  
Lester Heinrich - 7  
Janice Yule-12  
Heather Poindexter -12  
Elizabeth Creasy -13  
BJ Poindexter -13  
Ken McManis -13  
Rev. Frank Avery -15  
John Salley -23  
Janis Easter - 26  
Richard Overstreet-27  
Karen Overstreet -28

### **February Anniversaries**

Jim & Judy Harris - 13  
Rev. Frank & Tinkie Avery- 14