

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of August 14<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.



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**

*“Holy Ground Medley”*

Jim Hammerly

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

### **\*Call to Worship** (Isaiah 12:2-4)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation. With joy let us draw water from the wells of salvation. Let us give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His deeds among the nations; and proclaim His exalted name.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”*

Hymn 87

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

Gracious God, we are neither as carefree nor as independent as we pretend. We carry burdens and brokenness quietly and we look to You for care and healing. In this time of worship we ask You to bless us with Your grace and mercy. Watch over those we know and love and help us to be restored in those relationships where we have known separation. Lead us toward knowing and understanding Your ways as we seek to make sense of our life. We commend the world's needs to Your care, for we have grown wary of our own judgments. May the still waters of worship and the living water of Your Word quiet us and open us to Your grace. In Jesus' name. 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**

John 4: 7-15, 7: 37-39

**Praise Team**

*“Is Anyone Thirsty?”*

Graham Kendrick

**Sermon**

Jesus, the Water of Life

Adapted from, Meeting God When You Are Thirsty. by Glenn Durham @ SermonCentral.com

Let's celebrate the reopening of our public schools by rehearsing a few lines from Coleridge's famous poem, The Rhyme Of The Ancient Mariner. This is the story of a whaling ship lost among ice flows in the Southern Sea until an albatross – a very lucky sign – appears to lead them to safety. But, for reasons unknown, the Ancient Mariner shoots and kills the bird, thus dooming the ship to wander trackless seas until all on board except himself had died.

*Day after day, day after day, We stuck, nor breath nor motion;  
As idle as a painted ship Upon a painted ocean.  
Water, water, everywhere, And all the boards did shrink;  
Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink.*

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Have you ever been really, really, thirsty? 75% of the earth's surface is covered with water, but only 1% is fresh, unfrozen, suitable for drinking. Roughly 70% percent of your body is water. Your body uses water to regulate temperature, flush waste, and process food. All of your organs use water in their function. The average adult could live 30 days without food, but only 5 days without water. Because it contains 3% of dissolved salts, drinking seawater actually dehydrates the body more as it tries to remove the salt. Therefore, in the midst of a vast ocean, "*water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink.*"

We do not often think about water, because here it is plentiful and clean. In Bedford as in most American communities, we can drink straight from our kitchen taps. But the majority of the rural population in third world countries, especially women and children still spend hours each day collecting water – often dirty and infested water - from distant sources. They do so because water is absolutely necessary to all aspects of human life.

The region where most of the Biblical stories take place is a very arid, parched and barren land. Because of the scarcity of good water, thirst was a universal experience and knowing where to find the next source of drinking water was a life and death matter. This is why the Bible often uses the metaphor of thirst to describe other needs. Here's one from Proverbs: "*Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.*" (25:25)

How appropriate, then, for Jesus to use this idea of thirsting for water to explain Life, because we have other thirsts which also beg – demand – to be satisfied. But, just as with drinking saltwater, seeking to satiate these thirsts from "polluted" sources will kill you.

True to his purpose for writing, John's story of the woman at the well is the record of another of Jesus' evangelistic encounters. **Following His example, Christianity is meant to be a missionary faith.** Those who have met Jesus should themselves become sharers of this living water he wants to give to all who thirst. Reading on a bit further in her story, you can learn the result of Jesus' conversation with the woman: "*Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony....*" (4:39). Her experience with Jesus transformed her into an instant evangelist. As promised, the living water He had offered her, began springing up in her soul and immediately she wanted to share it with others.

Following Jesus' method of "**offering living water to dry and thirsty souls,**" should also be our strategy for faithful and effective witnessing. So, to better fetch this water of life for yours or another's soul, let's learn four key principles for satisfying our spiritual thirst.

### **First, We Must Meet Jesus To Have Our Thirst Defined** (John 4: 13-15)

Perhaps, you remember the clever advertising slogan: "**Wow, I could have had a \_\_\_\_.**" With this tag line, Campbell Soup Company is making the claim that your thirst has been blunted by inferior refreshments. So before you grab another less than satisfying drink, you should realize how much healthier and thirst quenching would be a V8-juice.

I am not suggesting a new, trendy bumper sticker: "*Wow, I could have had Jesus.*" What I am saying is that in helping her realize her real thirst was precisely where Jesus began his witness with this woman. She does have a very real and physical thirst for water; that is why she is at the

well. But an even greater desire squeezes her heart dry – she thirsts for a changed life, a life of meaning and satisfaction.

As her story opens, it's about the sixth hour – high noon – when Jesus arrives at the Well of Jacob. Having now walked through the coolest morning hours, Jesus is understandably tired and very thirsty. Resting there by the well as His disciples go into the nearby town to find food, Jesus sees a woman coming out of town to draw water.

Walking alone during the heat of the day to another water source further from her home – outside of town – this woman has a much deeper thirst than just for water. In fact to meet and quench this woman's real thirst was perhaps the reason why Jesus had felt compelled to walk through Samaria in the first place; Jesus was always looking for those who were truly thirsty for a better life.

Notice how the apostle John contrasts her story with that of Nicodemus which immediately preceded it.

- Nicodemus was a devoutly religious Jew; she was an immoral Samaritan.
- He was a learned theologian; she was an uneducated peasant.
- He was wealthy; she was poor.
- He was a man and a member of the social elite; she was a woman and the dregs of Samaritan society.

Each stroke of the brush adds to the picture of her deeper thirst that she had tried (unsuccessfully) to satisfy through immoral relationships.

Both Nicodemus and this woman were thirsting for something more in life and each time Jesus began by drawing them into a realization of the real thing for which their souls were craving. Nicodemus will not find the salvation he so desires by studiously following the law. She will not find happiness with a string of men; nor will she escape hurt by avoiding other people; both had a deep spiritual thirst that only God could satisfy. So, as with Nicodemus, Jesus gently points out that her thirst quenching efforts have been misdirected: *"Drink from this well and you will be thirsty again."*

American country singer Johnny Lee wrote:

*"I was looking for love in all the wrong places...looking for love in too many faces ... Hopin' to find a friend and a lover, God bless the day I discover, Another heart, lookin' for love."*

Lee is wrong – you will not quench your thirst by finding another, *"heart looking for love."* This woman's problem is vertical, not the many horizontal relationships she has attempted in her effort to escape loneliness and pain. So Jesus begins by helping her see her real thirst was a desire to know God; but He does not stop there.

## **Second: We Must Also Meet Jesus To Have Our Thirst Accentuated** (John 4.10)

When they first meet, Jesus appears to be the thirsty one who needs her help. But He quickly reverses their roles. Now He claims to have the water she really wants; He calls it **"living water,"** but Jesus has given the term a double meaning. In normal conversation, living water referred to moving water (as opposed to that in a well or cistern). A flowing stream, river, or fountain, was considered to provide better, safer, more healthy "living water." Since she knew there were no streams anywhere nearby, Jesus' offer has piqued her curiosity and got her attention at least for the moment. But Jesus was offering something much greater than the location of some hidden spring, He was offering the thirst quenching Spirit of God to live within her. The Bible often uses water as the symbol of the soul's desire for that which only God can supply.

The prophet Isaiah equated water with salvation: "*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*" (Isa 12:3).

He also used water to represent God's giving of the Holy Spirit: "*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*" (Isaiah 44:3)

Both Ezekiel's and John's visions of Heaven, see "*the river of the water of life,*" flowing out from under the throne of God bringing salvation to all the nations. (Ezk 47, Rev 22),

There is a saying: "*You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.*" Which is true, Jesus wasn't forcing his blessings on this woman. He offers that for which she deeply thirsts, but He does not make her drink it. However, there is another part to this saying: "*You can lead a horse to water, you can't make it drink...but you can give it a salt tablet.*" So, Jesus adds a pinch of salt to increase her thirst for the things of God: "*I have living water*"

If you have never tasted Jesus' living water, note well His words. You thirst and seek satisfaction, but you will not find it apart from God. The restlessness and incompleteness which infects every aspect of life is your soul's thirsting for God. If you knew the gift of God, if you knew the complete satisfaction and utter happiness available for your soul, you would ask of Jesus and He would give you living water.

Here also is something for you who seek to witness to dry and thirsty souls. Jesus does not begin with condemnation, as we too often have done. He does not quote chapter and verse, as we may have thought beneficial. He starts with her needs and relates them to God through Biblical truths. He appeals to her imagination and her desires. He defines, then accentuates, her thirst. How different and delightful is Jesus' careful and compassionate call to dry and thirsty souls!

### **Third, Only As We Meet Jesus Can Our Thirst be Satisfied** (John 4.13-14a)

Jesus hinted to this woman that her real concern ought to be spiritual. She does not understand. But He remains patient and comes to point again: "*This water that you draw from the well will satisfy only temporary thirsts; I am speaking to you of a different longing. One that can be fully satisfied, forever.*"

There are many temporary things that the heart and flesh desire, yet those who obtain them remain dissatisfied. Whether you seek the comfort of riches or rank; whether you labor hard in learning, or to acquire power; whether amusement or advancement is your passion; all are utterly unable to fill your soul. Andrew Carnegie, the richest man of his day was once asked how much wealth would finally make him happy; he replied, *just a little bit more than I currently have.* It is as if our souls were in the shape of a sieve. You may pour in the water of worldly delights day and night, but none will be held. Pour in pasta, though, and the sieve is quickly filled. Jesus offers something materially different than the water of the world. He offers good things which stick to your soul.

Singer, Songwriter Peggy Lee recorded a song with this chorus:

*"Is that all there is? is that all there is? If that's all there is my friends, then let's keep dancing; Let's break out the booze and have a ball, If that's all there is"*

A sad song of despair. We can clog the holes in the sieves of our souls with the dirt of the world and so feel a bit more full. But the results will always be temporary. *Whoever drinks of this water will be thirsty again.* Only Jesus fills the holes of our souls by filling us with living water.

### **Forth: When We finally Meet Jesus Our Thirst Will Be Transformed** (John 4.14b)

Those who go hiking know that as a water source, wells are questionable, creeks and rivers are not much better. The very best water for quenching your thirst is that which springs forth, icy cold from the roots of a mountain. If you have ever tasted fresh teeth-hurting-cold spring water, you know all those bottled water ads are being less than truthful.

In pioneer days, to have a spring of fresh water on your property was a treasure indeed and a gift to the whole community. To have clean, cold, water bubbling right up out of the ground near your home not only refreshed your thirst, it preserved your food, it even cooled your body on a hot tiresome day; and there was always more flowing out to share with all who passed by. This is what Jesus offered the woman: a spiritual "*spring of water gushing up to eternal life,*" not just for herself but for all whom she met thereafter.

Those who know Jesus become themselves springs of eternal life. Yes, there will be times of discouragement and trouble, even backsliding. We all have such in a fallen world. But there will always be this irrepressible life bubbling forth from those who have come to know God through Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit will seep out – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. The change of character resulting from the blessing of God will flow forth – peacemaking, humility, mercy, purity of heart, doing good even to those who had persecuted you.

This is exactly what happened with the woman at the well. So excited was she to share this living water, that she left her jug at the well and went to fetch her neighbors – even those who had spurned her – so that they too might come and be refreshed. The conclusion of the story sees the entire Samaritan town inviting Jesus to stay; which he does for two days, *and many more believed because of His word* (4:41).

A true Christian has more than an intellectual assent to the facts of the gospel, something more significant than just belief in God, they also have God's indwelling Holy Spirit, a spiritual fountain of living water bubbling up from within that cannot be capped or contained.

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But this story about God's offer of living water we crave would not be complete without noticing one more thing. Wrapped around this whole conversation at the Well of Jacob, is Jesus' own personal thirst. It seems a bit strange that God comes to give us living water, yet He also grows dry and dusty, tired and thirsty. Nor would this be the only time. In His final moments on the cross, Jesus cries out: "*I thirst.*" (John 19:28)

We know why we thirst for God. In my sin I have turned my soul from the fountain of living water to seek whatever refreshment I can find in the dry desert of the self. But for what does God thirst? He thirsts for His wandering children to find their way back home to the life and refreshment He would abundantly give. From the prophet Jeremiah, we hear of God's thirst for His thirsting children.

*For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water and dug out cisterns for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water.* (Jeremiah 2:13)

In the world of water, farthest from a refreshing mountain spring or a river of living water, or even a well of still water, is a cistern, which is literally a deep hole dug in the ground in the hopes of catching whatever rain water might fall from the sky. Cistern water at its best would be stagnant when used or – if the cistern is cracked – no water at all. There were plenty of such dry cisterns dotting the Promised Land, which is why one was conveniently nearby for Joseph's brothers to toss him into. If we don't have God's living water bubbling up inside, all we have at best is a dry or leaking cistern of a life.

But why must Jesus thirst? The reason is the same for His growing weary under the heat of the noonday sun after a long walk. Because Jesus loves you and me enough to seek us out, just as he sought out the woman at the well, in whatever dry and weary land where we may live. You only have to ask and He will give you living water.

Let's pray about that.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### ***Worship Song***

*"Who Can Satisfy My Soul Like You?"*

Dennis Jernigan

### ***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***

*"Doxology"*

Hymn 44

### ***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? Bless our gifts, we pray, that they may be used in acts of love. Bless our lives with peace and justice and mercy, so that we may pass those gifts on to others as we work for the coming of Your reign upon earth. Bless our sight, so that as we look around us we will see and be moved to help serve the needs of our neighbors; help us to see what You see and respond as You would respond. This we ask in the name of Your son who saw us and reached out to help us find our way home to You.

### ***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.

### ***Hymn***

*"Blessed be the Lord God Almighty"*

Hymn 19

## **THE SENDING FORTH**

### ***Benediction***

Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (II Peter 3:17)

### ***Postlude***

*"Praise Him! Praise Him!"*

Bill Wollaver

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of  
Dot DeShazo, by her daughters, Dianne Fain and Debra DeShazo.

### Joys- August 14<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Fleming's, joy of daughter and grandchildren visiting

**Joy-** Betty Goodman thanks everyone for their prayers

### Concerns- August 14<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned

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

**Benton:** Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Faye McDaniel (friend) husband has severe health issues

Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) chemo, lupus

Linda Bosserman (friend) husband passed away

**Blair:** Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

**Boone:** Sarah Walker- (daughter) arthritis in neck

Michael Bamber (friend) throat cancer, lymph nodes

**Clarke:** Weebie, hospice care, Harvey, neuropathy

**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

**DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments

**Diddams:** Dick- back in hospital with covid

**Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer

**Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home

Tom- back surgery

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

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

Betty- recovering from shoulder surgery

John Wright (nephew) heart issues

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

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

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** 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

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

**McManis:** Charlotte, stroke, recovering

Janet (sister) nursing home

Melissa (daughter) covid

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

Families of those who serve

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma

**Narwid:** Ed- recovering at home, improving

**Neal:** Janet- palliative care

**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

**Noell:** Becky, recovering from heart procedure, doing well, home  
**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis  
**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)  
Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer  
**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer  
Sonny (son) doing well  
**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord  
Katherine Tabor- (friend) stage 3 cervical cancer  
**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Nick & Tiffany, baby doing well, Tiffany improving  
Kaleb, (Nick's son) recovering from wound tear  
**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Duncan Elliston- (fireman)  
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer  
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery  
Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia  
Tom Richardson- (friend) hospital, afib  
Doug Neals- (friend) cancer  
Dwight Atkins- (cousin) hospice care  
**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS  
Nancy- lymphoma, prayers for remission, treatments  
**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues, improving  
Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers for family

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

**Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons. Nations to stand up for freedom.**

**Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us**

**Prayers for our constant responders**

**Floods in the East, Fires in the West, War in Ukraine**

## AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>10 am Worship                      Communion                      Prayer Time</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Farmers                      Market                      Prayer Table</i>
<b>14</b> <i>10 am Worship                      5 ¢ a Meal Offering                      Prayer Time</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>10 am Service                      Session                      Prayer Time</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Book Club,                      4 pm</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Cancer                      Group, 6 pm</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>10 am Service                      Prayer Time</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## 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 August 14<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
5 ¢ a Meal Offering  
Prayer Time following service  
Sunday: August 21<sup>st</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Session  
Prayer Time following service

### August Birthdays

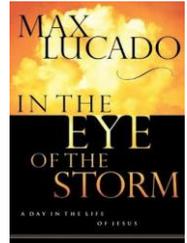
Edith Weeks-17  
Ann Fowler-27  
William Hopkins-29

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### Something More SUMMER BOOK CLUB Returns!!

Hot lazy summer days are good times to exercise your mind with the reading and sharing of some good books. For this reason the SMSBC is returning on Tuesday, **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4 pm**. Along with stimulating discussion – led by Ellen Foster and her faithful assistant John Salley – we will also share a **potluck picnic supper** of whatever you bring. We have chosen a Max Lucado book: *In The Eye Of The Storm*.

Since this is an older publication, it is available in multiple formats and on the used market from \$0-\$10



### Roanoke Pops Christmas Concert-2022

It's that time of year again for you to secure your seat at one of the three tables we have been able to reserve for this years Roanoke Pops Concert. The concert is on **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**. Tickets are \$49.00 each. Please get in touch with Judy Blair to reserve your seat. [540-587-9416]. Once you have secured a seat, your check should be made out to Bedford Presbyterian Church. You can drop it off at the church office or put it in Lana's mailbox. If you have any questions give Judy a call.