

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



Week of August 28th

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

"He Leadeth Me"

Don Wyrzten

Welcome and Announcements

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Centerfest is coming, September 24th. We need lots of help to make it a success. Check your bulletin for more information and there's the sign-up sheet in the office.
- Next Sunday is Aloha Sunday and we will be having a potluck luncheon after the service. Please bring your favorite dish to share and join us in great food and fellowship.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

***Call to Worship** (base on Psalm 23 and John 10)

One: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Good Shepherd.

All: You lay down Your life for the sheep.

One: You are the Good Shepherd. You know Your own.

All: and Your own know You.

One: Our Shepherd leads us beside still waters.

All: Our Shepherd will restore our soul and lead us in right paths.

One: Goodness and mercy shall follow us

All: and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Hymn 95

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord God, we have strayed from, or led astray, Your flock by doing the things that should not have been done and by not doing the things that should have been done. We have ignored the needy. We have trampled on the rights of others. We have stolen the first fruits of the earth for ourselves at the expense of others. But our faith is restored through our hope in You! We ask for Your forgiveness and seek your grace. We entrust ourselves to You our Good Shepherd whose love will set aside our transgressions. In the covenant of Your love, and in the name of Jesus, we pray, 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 10: 9-16, 27-30

Women's Ensemble

"One Step He Leads"

Pepper Choplin

Sermon

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Portions adapted from: I Am The Good Shepherd, by Denn Guptill @ SErmonCentral.Com

In this morning's scripture lesson, we hear Jesus say not once but twice, "***I am the Good Shepherd.***" So you may ask, why a Shepherd?

He used this title for Himself probably for a couple of reasons. As you read through the gospels, you learn that Jesus was a genius at taking the everyday and using it to illustrate the eternal. The Kingdom of God is like: a man working in a field, a woman baking bread, a fisherman casting his net into the water.

So perhaps on this day as Jesus and His followers were walking around the Palestinian countryside, they paused to watch a shepherd lead his flock of sheep across the road.

Or maybe this wasn't a spontaneous teaching, but rather a carefully planned and crafted message. We don't think of Jesus' teaching in that light do we? We don't think of Him writing a sermon or preparing His thoughts in advance; we just assume that everything He said was a natural outflow of who He was. I can't speak for other pastors but I spend extensive hours each week studying, writing, molding, and then rehearsing the entire message that you hear on Sunday mornings. Some preachers can stand up and deliver a powerful sermon with just an open Bible in their hands. I am not one of them. Like the sheep we hear about today, without a steady guide out in front of me, I find it too easy to wander away and get lost.

So maybe Jesus had stayed up late the night before wondering how He would convey these specific thoughts to those who followed Him and decided on the analogy of a shepherd and sheep. Since, 2000 years ago in Israel everyone knew how sheep acted and what the tasks of a shepherd were. So perhaps, we also ought to know that when the Bible uses sheep as an analogy for God's people, isn't always a compliment. And while shepherding was considered among the lowest class jobs in society – like being a garbage collector, King David himself began as a shepherd, so when he wanted to describe God's care for our lives, he wrote "***The Lord is my shepherd.***"

But what does this mean to us today? Sheep and shepherds are not a common sight along our roads. When we see sheep, there are usually less than a dozen spread out peacefully grazing in a green fenced in pasture and there isn't a shepherd anywhere in sight. Very few, if any of us have even met a real shepherd. So now, Jesus describing Himself as a "the good shepherd" perhaps conveys as much meaning to us as describing the work of a snow plough operator to a Filipino.

But we need to understand what being a "good shepherd" means because it is one of only two analogies which Jesus, having used to describe Himself, then expects us to imitate. A few weeks back, we heard Jesus describe Himself as "*the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life*" (John 8:12). Perhaps, at that time you recalled Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount: "*You are the light of the world — like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden — let your light shine before others.*" (Matthew 5:14-15). But nowhere do you see Jesus commanding those who would follow Him to be a vine, or a gate, or bread, or the Way.

Now, when Jesus says, "*I am the good Shepherd,*" we might remember that in His last conversation with Peter, not once but three times, urged Peter to *feed my sheep*" (John 21:15-17). This shepherd idea must have resonated with His disciples because we see it appearing again in several of their letters. Passing through Ephesus on his way to Rome, addressing the church leaders with what he thought might be his farewell remarks, Paul urged, "*Keep watch over*

yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that He obtained with the blood of His own Son.." (Acts 20:28)

This is also a theme Paul would also return to in his letters from prison, writing, *The gifts [Jesus] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some **pastors** and teachers* (Ephesians 4:11) The Greek word, translated here as "**pastor**," literally means "**shepherd**." So it should not surprise you to learn that our modern word "pastor" comes from a Latin verb meaning, "**to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat**". So I take very seriously that the characteristics which Jesus applied to himself as the "Good Shepherd," should also apply to those with whom He entrusts His flock today.

What then are the characteristics of a good shepherd? I suspect that when Jesus said "*I am the Good Shepherd*," many of those hearing Him would have immediately thought of David's 23rd Psalm and about how God, the Shepherd, was described there.

So this morning, using the 23rd Psalm as our guide, let's look at **three major tasks** of what a good shepherd is supposed to do: **lead, protect, and discipline**.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; **He leads me** beside still waters.*

First, we need to forget this modern image of sheep peacefully grazing in green, fenced in fields. I don't even think that the flocks free ranging in our American west, match up to the hardships involved with shepherding in the Middle East where good pasture was a rare find.

A Shepherd was first expected to lead the sheep to food. In the arid Palestinian countryside good grazing is always a moving target. If sheep are allowed to graze too long at one spot they will destroy what little grass is growing there, thus the shepherd must constantly be moving the sheep from area to area so they can get enough to eat without overgrazing, thus rendering that area barren thereafter.

If you grew up watching westerns you are probably familiar with the term "Cattle drive;" you can picture in your minds the whooping cowboys riding behind and beside the herd driving their cattle from point "A" to point "B." But here it says the shepherd **leads** the sheep.

From what I have read, sheep aren't the brightest of animals but they do trust their shepherd. In today's text Jesus tells us that the sheep recognize the shepherd's voice and come to him

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. (10:3-4)

The sheep know the shepherd's voice because they hear it all the time, they understand that if they follow that voice then good things will happen, they will be led to food and water.

In our daily life as Christ followers we are supposed to follow Christ. That should be a no-brainer. The Sheep trust that the shepherd is concerned about their well-being and that he will take them to where they can find both food and water. If we follow Christ, His words, His teaching and His example then we will be provided for spiritually. And like sheep if we are familiar with His voice we will find it easier to follow His voice. That's why we read the scriptures, to become familiar with Jesus so we will know His voice.

Jesus then continued on saying "*[sheep] will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.*" So if you are familiar with the voice of Jesus when you hear something that just doesn't jive with His voice, you know better than to follow, even if that voice comes from a pulpit; like sheep, you should also run from that stranger.

It's when we decide that as sheep, we know better than the shepherd and we go our own way that we get into trouble. At different times in the gospels, Jesus talks about sheep that get lost. Those are sheep who came to the conclusion that they knew more than the shepherd and decided instead to go their own way. The scriptures warn, *There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.* (Proverbs 14:12)

As your pastor, as Jesus' under-shepherd, my responsibility is to lead you where God would have you to go, to direct you to where you can be fed spiritually.

The 23rd psalm continues, *even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.* **The Shepherd leads, but he also protects the Sheep**

How many of you remember the old Looney Tunes cartoons? One of my favorite cartoons pitted **Ralph the wolf against Sam the sheep dog**. Remember, that they would clock into work together each morning, "*Morning Ralph, morning Sam,*" then spend the day doing what they do best. The wolf trying his hardest to steal a sheep and the sheepdog preventing him from stealing said sheep (the wolf always lost). At the end of the day they would again clock out together, the wolf worse for the wear, and then probably head down to the pub for a brew (but being a kid's show, we never got to see that part).

Palestinian sheep weren't raised in fenced in farms, All their life they roamed the open hills where wild animals also roamed. Often times while the sheep were looking for something to eat, predators in the same area were also looking for something to eat. And, while sheep had a number of natural enemies they had no natural defenses. They couldn't run that fast. They are herbivores so their teeth really aren't designed to bite in defense (*although most pastors have discovered that sheep can bite*). Sheep really are helpless. It is up to the shepherd to protect them against all kinds of wild animals.

Remember the story of David, as a young shepherd offering to fight the giant Goliath? King Saul says, "*Don't be ridiculous, you are just a boy,*" but David counters with these words:

Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. (1 Samuel 17:34-35)

If we follow Jesus' voice He not only leads us, He also protects us. Time and time again in the New Testament false teachers are portrayed as wolves that want to prey on God's sheep. Part of my responsibility as your pastor, your shepherd, is to protect you from those false teachings; to counter them and point people in the right direction. And remember the best way to recognize what is false teaching is to be immersed in the truth yourself.

As a bank manager, my father took courses on how to spot counterfeit money. In some of those courses they never saw a single counterfeit bill. Instead they would spend so much time closely observing, carefully handling, real money so that when a counterfeit crossed their hands it would instinctively look and feel wrong. If you have immersed yourself in God's word, then when a wolf tries to slip you something counterfeit, it will instinctively feel wrong; and again the best defense is to run from such.

The third thing a Shepherd does may sound cruel. The rod and staff that "comforted" the sheep did so in three ways, both by leading and protecting, but also if needed by disciplining.

The **rod**, which we know as a **shepherd's crook**, was a long pole with a big hook on the end, primarily used to snag a sheep that needed some close up attention or was beginning to wander. The **staff** was a stout pole, sharpened at one end and used primarily as a weapon against attackers, but it could also give a stubborn sheep a quick whack on the rear to keep them in line.

However, when a particular sheep begins to make a habit of wandering, after a while there are basically three outcomes facing them, the shepherd could let them be eaten by something, the shepherd himself could eat them, or the shepherd could discipline them.

I have read stories purporting to be true, that sometimes a shepherd finds himself with a particular headstrong lamb who also seemed to have natural leadership abilities (apparently with sheep, like people, these two characteristics often go together). If left alone, this individualistic character would lead other sheep away from where they were supposed to be and into danger. So, if the shepherd couldn't stop this behavior he would resort to the drastic measure of intentionally breaking one of the lamb's legs. The shepherd would then set the leg and afterwards carry the lamb as he walked along. That lamb, now completely dependent on the shepherd for his food and water, would get used to staying close to the shepherd, so when the leg finally healed he would no longer be a danger to himself or to the other sheep.

Remember those paintings with Jesus carrying a lamb on His shoulders? This puts their relationship in a different light doesn't it?

Now I have a confession to make. I don't like discipline. Didn't like it as a child, didn't like it as teen, don't like it as an adult; especially when it was administered by those – in my mind – having no right to discipline. But discipline is a necessary part of life and accountability. Without sound discipline administered by our good shepherds, none of us would ever amount to much.

Listen to what the Bible has to say about discipline

My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by Him; for the Lord disciplines those whom He loves and chastises every child whom He accepts. Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ... [Our parents] disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but [God] disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share His holiness. Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12: 5-7, 10-12)

At some point we have all needed to be disciplined; learning a painful lesson of, "this is right and that is wrong." Be assured, discipline has never been a favorite part of any good pastor's tasks, yet when needed, it has to be done for the sake of both the individual sheep and the entire flock.

Lead, protect, discipline, this is what every good shepherd is expected to do, but bear in mind that there are a couple things that a shepherd can't do.

A Shepherd can't have baby sheep. This might sound silly but often times in the church, if the flock isn't growing, the sheep blame the shepherd. But in reality, the shepherd's task is to provide a safe healthy place for the sheep and in that environment they are supposed to reproduce. Only sheep can make other sheep. Only Christians can help birth other Christians.

Nor can a Shepherd eat for his sheep. I'm sure that you have all heard the old adage "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." Well you can lead the sheep to food, but you can't make them eat.

If the sheep are going to grow and stay healthy, then they have to eat, but the shepherd can't force them to eat. If Christ Followers are going to grow and stay healthy then they must feed themselves on God's word, but the shepherd can't force them to do so. If you aren't personally, regularly feeding on the Word of God through the weekdays and you feel spiritually weak, don't blame the pastor. People sometimes say "*Well I'm just not being spiritually fed on Sunday.*" What would happen if you only ate food once a week, on Sunday? You'd starve to death.

Here's a rather earthy illustration of what a pastor is actually doing with the Sunday sermon. Above the Arctic Circle, the Eskimo's primary diet is whale blubber, which is way too hard and chewy for a baby to eat. So momma Eskimo takes a bite of whale blubber and having thoroughly chewed it into a soft gooey mass, she then spits it into the hungry mouth of her baby. If you are not also personally feeding on God's word, that's all you get with the Sunday sermon: lovingly, carefully prepared baby food. So when I hear someone say, they are just not being fed by the Sunday sermon, my prayer is, "*Lord teach them to eat.*"

Let me close with the words of Peter, remember this is the Peter that Jesus commanded to feed His sheep.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ... For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (1 Peter 2:10,25)

May God always give us good shepherds to **lead** us to green pastures beside still waters, to **protect** us through the valleys of the shadow of death, and as needed to **discipline** us, so that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Let's pray about this.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"He Knows My Name"

Tommy Walker

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology

"Doxology"

Hymn 34

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We have heard You call us by name, dear God and we turn to You now to offer ourselves as Your under-shepherds. You have gifted each of us uniquely, so that we might serve You and this household of faith. Give us the motivation and energy to use our gifts for the sake of Your mission in the world, proclaiming Your love, serving the poor, and embodying Your healing presence. As we seek to follow Jesus' example, take us by the hand and lead us out of these church doors to be Your servants in our world. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Good Shepherd.

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 Song

"Honor or Glory"

1 Timothy 1:17

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction (2 Peter 3:17)

Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Postlude

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

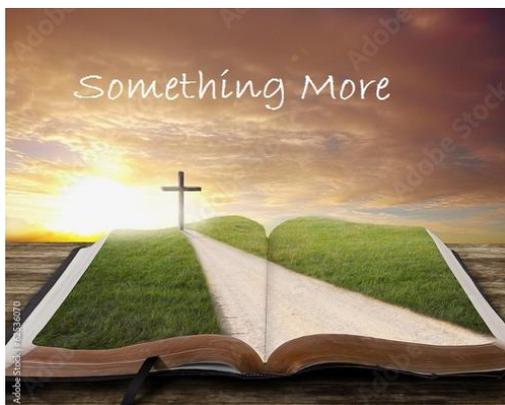
Bill Wolaver

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my wonderful mother, Jean Farrar, on her birthday, Dot Kuhn-Kibbey.



Centerfest is coming September 24th!

We need volunteers to serve 2-hour slots at our PRAYER TABLE, FRONT YARD HOSPITALITY, and GARAGE SALE (Friday night and Saturday). Sign-up sheet is in the office.



Something More resumes!!!

On September 28th at 4pm in the fellowship hall.

Concerns- August 28th

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Bobby Miller (nephew) pending heart surgery
- Benton:** Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) chemo, lupus
- 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 infection
- Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer
- Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home
Tom- back procedure
Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia
- Fowler:** Ann, obstructive bowel, Lewis Gale
- 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
Dick's sister (Kibbey) - dementia, Washington state
- 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:** Janet (sister) nursing home
Melissa (daughter) covid
- Monk:** Libby, recovering from gall bladder surgery
- Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Families of those who serve
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma
Rev. Pam Ledbetter, auto-immune, diabetes
- 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
- 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
Travel mercies, to sons to get ready to bring baby home

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <i>10 am Worship Communion Aloha Sunday Potluck Prayer Time</i>	5 <i>Labor Day Office closed</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>10 am Worship 5 ¢ a Meal Offering Prayer Time</i>	12 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Service Session Prayer Time</i>	19 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	20	21	22 <i>Cancer Group, 6 pm</i>	23 <i>Garage Sale</i>	24 <i>Centerfest Garage Sale</i>
25 <i>8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Service Prayer Time</i>	26 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	27	28 <i>Something More, 4 pm</i>	29	30	

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 28th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

Sunday: September 4th

10 am Worship- Aloha Sunday

Communion

Potluck

Prayer Time following service

August Birthdays

William Hopkins-29

September Birthdays

Bill Yodis- 2

James Harris 12

Sandy Scheurer 12

Deanna Rutledge 16

Dick Kibbey 17

Christine Riley 18

Harold Neal 19

Barbara Saunders 20

Dick Diddams 21

Ron Morris 24

Jay Barnes 29

September Anniversaries

Jay & Eunice Barnes 11

Gerald & Tammy DeWitt 19

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 2nd 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.