

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



Week of October 2nd

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"

arr. Hammerly

Welcome and Announcements

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Join us Gleaning Apples, this Saturday at Johnson's Orchard at 9 am or meet at church at 8:30 am to carpool.
- Something More meets Wednesday at 4 pm.

***Call to Worship**

One: Lovely indeed, O Lord, is Your dwelling place.

All: Our souls long to be in Your courts.

One: Among Your altars, even the birds find nests.

All: We ever sing Your praise within Your house.

One: Happy are those whose strength is in You.

All: Happy are those who trust in You, O Lord.

***Hymn of Praise**

"How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely"

Hymn 545

***Prayer of Confession**

Patient and loving God, You have promised to never leave us or forsake us. You have given us the gift of Your presence in this time and beyond time. Forgive us for the ways and times in which we sacrifice our trust in You for easy answers or quick fixes that ultimately neither fix nor answer anything. Gracious God, help us see beyond the things that are transient and focus on things that are grounded in You. Give us confident trust that our salvation is a gift from You, a result of Your grace, given to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Chronicles 22: 2-13, 17-19

Worship Song

"How Lovely are Thy Dwelling Places"

Bin Soto

Sermon

Planting trees you'll never sit under

Gratefully borrowed and Adapted from: Planting Trees You Will Never Sit Under, by Michael Stark @ SermonCentral.com

Let's begin with a few predictions from some famous visionaries.

1. In 1859, Edwin L. Drake tried to enlist well drillers in his search for oil. *"They said, you want to drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy."*
2. In 1899, Charles Duell, Commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office said, *"Everything that can be invented has been invented."*
3. In 1927, H.M. Warner, of Warner Brothers, when asked about adding sound to movies said, *"Who wants to hear actors talk?"*
4. In 1929, Irving Fisher, Professor of Economics at Yale University said, *"Stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau."*
5. In 1962, a representative at Decca Recording Company rejected the Beatles saying, *"We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out."*
6. In 1977 Digital Equipment Corp. founder Ken Olsen's quipped, *"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home."*

Predicting the future is almost impossible, but preparing for the future is indispensable. An old proverb teaches, ***"Blessed is the one who plants a tree under whose shade they will never sit."***

Today, as we come to the end of our stories from the life of David, we witness him doing just that – planting a tree under whose shade he would never sit. What I'm referring to is the preparations he made for the temple that God would not allow him to build. This story begins in 1 Chronicles chapter 22. But let's first catch up with David's life to this point.

As a young shepherd, having been anointed by the prophet Samuel to be Israel's next king, David spent his adolescent years as a servant in King Saul's court, and his young adult life fleeing from the same mad king. At the age of thirty, with Saul's death, David was finally crowned as king over Israel; a position he would hold for the next forty years.

King David spent the early years of his reign defeating Israel's enemies and consolidating the nation around Jerusalem as its capital. After winning the peace for all of Israel, David's next triumph was in bringing the Ark of the Covenant to permanently reside in Jerusalem.

David had wanted to build a Temple in Jerusalem to house the Ark, but having been told by God that as a "man of war," he could not do so, David still began faithfully gathering all the necessary materials so that the next king might accomplish what he could not.

In his later years, David also had several sons who wanted to be that king. **Amnon**, David's first-born son and the heir apparent to his throne – was murdered by **Absalom**, David's third-born son, in revenge for raping their sister Tamar. Then, after seven tumultuous years of struggling with his father, Absalom led a rebellion against David, only to be killed in battle.

When David was very old, **Adonijah**, his fourth-born son, next sought to claim the throne. But some years earlier, God had told David that his and Bathsheba's second son would be the next King. God had instructed David to name him **Solomon**, "The Peaceable One," because he would be a man of peace, much loved by God, and that he would be the one to build the God's temple (2

The problem was that at this time when Adonijah was trying to claim the throne, Solomon was still a sheltered youth, only seventeen years of age. So David quickly crowned Solomon king and spent the last few years of his life as his co-regent, preparing Solomon to wisely rule Israel and also to build God's temple.

Now, the scripture we read today, records when King David fully handed over the throne to Solomon, charging him to always honor God and to build God's temple.

Though it does not specifically say so, this text is about greatness—about making an impact that will last and that will make a difference. This story would have us lift our eyes from the present to the future. If we will but look with the eyes of faith, we will see that through these words of King David, **God is instructing us to live for what can be, rather than squandering what we have on a passing moment.**

<i>Great people plant trees They will never</i>	There are many ways we measure the greatness of a person, Some may be considered great because of their talent, their possessions, their wealth, or because of their service to their country or to other's less fortunate. Rephrasing that classic proverb, philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said, " <i>Great people plant shade trees they will never sit under.</i> " Immediately you know what he meant; such an individual is unselfish, visionary, and dedicated. Their grasp of what must follow is greater than the pressing demand of the moment.
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Knowing that what we do today will affect those who walk after us, that those who follow will inherit both our folly along with our wisdom, how tragic that not all our plantings are good. It is inescapable that not only our good deeds, but also our sins and our negligence will shape the lives of those coming after us.

"Planting trees," would have us carefully consider the future impact that our present work will have far beyond our immediate enjoyment. In an age which generally lives only for the moment and which is enamored with building its own monuments, such far sightedness is desperately needed.

Today, we need a revival of men and women in the churches, in homes and in the nation who will plant trees for others. Nowhere does our need to see the big picture, to understand the broader future implications of our actions, become more apparent than in the work of the church. In order to understand this pressing need, let's review David's preparations for building the Temple of God.

TO PLANT TREES YOU WILL NEVER SIT UNDER REQUIRES A GREAT DREAM.

David had a long held dream of building a house to the glory of God. The nation had prospered under David's rule. National peace had been won through great sacrifice in defeating every outside threat to Israel's security. The people now lived in luxury and enjoyed an affluence they could not have imagined before His reign. But David, as a man after God's own heart, was painfully aware of the marked dissimilarity between Israel's economic wealth and their spiritual indifference. God was blessing His people, but they seemingly cared little about showing their gratitude!

David could not imagine that God was pleased seeing His people live in luxury while His house was neglected. He mused to Nathan the prophet, "*Behold, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent*" (1 CHRONICLES 17:1) At first, Nathan agreed with David's ambition to build, but that night God relayed through him, that not David, but his son would be the one to build God's temple (1 Chronicles 17:3-15)

So David began to plan, determined to build the Temple through the son whom God had promised. Although prohibited from actually building the Temple, he could accumulate materials for its construction. And, even though he would never see or enter what was built, he could design this Temple for God. It was a mark of David's greatness that seeing the current need, he planned for the future of the people of God; a future that he would never personally enjoy.

It is a tragic truth that many of us, especially in our modern churches, have ceased dreaming such great dreams. We are so cowed by the concerns and crises of daily life that our capacity to dream has practically died. We are trapped by the possible, the feasible and the practical. What a shame that so many of us have lost the capacity for fantasy and dreaming and thus can never escape the present. So, the work of God plods along, content to maintain the "status quo," instead of daring to dream of great advances. We desperately need to get off the treadmill of the present and dream about some tomorrows. Like the current fad for electric cars, we design technical applications without a vision of what we are doing for the future. Content to focus on the moment we are unaware of the greater impact of our actions on those who will follow. Like David, our dreams for tomorrow should include the children of tomorrow.

TO PLANT TREES YOU WILL NEVER SIT UNDER also REQUIRES HUMILITY.

There are limits to what any one person can do. David had won peace for Israel through a lifetime of conflict. Consequently, when David proposed building a Temple for the Lord, God's word to David was,

"you shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood in my sight on the earth. See, a son shall be born to you; he shall be a man of peace. I will give him peace from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for my name. He shall be a son to me, and I will be a father to him, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever." (1 Chronicles 22:8b, 9a, 10).

Some things disqualify us from building the House of God. We are each limited by our history, our abilities and our opportunities. One individual attempting only what they are capable of doing is limited in the good they can ever hope to achieve. How much better to recognize our individual limitations and to realize our dependence upon one another?

If the Temple building commission Christ gave us is to prosper, we must do it together. We must learn that we are not indispensable; that we need to share in every great work. Responding to a friend's question, "*How are you?*" the man answered, "*I am fine; I have resigned as President of the Universe and the resignation has been accepted.*" He understood this principle of mutual dependence.

Not everyone can be a pastor of the congregation; a preacher requires listeners. Not everyone can direct the music; someone must sing and others must rejoice in the music produced. Not everyone can conduct the service; there must be a congregation to unite in worship. Not everyone can teach Sunday school; a teacher needs students. When we begin to compare ourselves to others feeling that we are perhaps being slighted in recognition, it is a fair indication that we have ceased to work together, united in a common vision of future benefits, and that we have begun to live for the moment.

Friends, the work of the moment is destined for dust, just as are the deluded souls who live for the moment.

The Apostle Paul was never jealous of the works he established; he rejoiced in their victories and agonized over their failures. Looking back to the Church in Corinth he spoke of the workers God had raised up to bless those saints.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 CORINTHIANS 3:6).

Notice the change of tense? Paul worked, though he didn't see his work come to fruition at that time. Apollos watered, also not seeing the immediate blossoming of the work. Both did their work once and for all; but God continues giving the increase! God continually superintended the work, even after the workers had moved on.

Paul would later instruct those same Christians:

"Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit ... So that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27)

President Ronald Reagan was fond of repeating a Harry S. Truman quote, "**It is amazing what can be accomplished when it does not matter who receives the credit.**" We are all individually limited by talent, by circumstance, by opportunity. But if we are willing to do our part and humbly leave the rest for others – if we are willing to help plant trees we will never sit under – there is no limit to what our life can mean for the cause of Christ.

When a people are united in a common dream they cease to compete and begin to complement. No longer does it seem important to do a task simply so that you may be stroked or that your effort may be recognized; you then begin to labor because the task in which you are engaged is a great task and you share in the dream. The dream may not be realized in your day, but you live and labor in anticipation of the benefit for those who follow.

Finally, **TO PLANT TREES YOU WILL NEVER SIT UNDER REQUIRES A SENSE OF PRIORITY.** The cause is what is important. That cause must be big enough for me to want to go forward, far beyond my credit or my days. The House of God was to be where David sought to restore the religious zeal of his fellow Israelites.

David's life would soon end; in submission to the will of God he surrendered his desire to build the Temple and instead set himself to making preparations for that task which another would perform. This was the mark of David's greatness.

Seven years after his death, David's dream came to fruition under the guidance of Solomon. Constructed of stones quarried near Jerusalem, along with trees brought from distant lands, and precious metals gathered through the years, the Temple rose to the glory of God. The building was magnificent indeed. At its dedication, Solomon declared: "*I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.*" (1 KINGS 8:13) .

David had built a house he never entered, but he entered a better one, one not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. David planted a tree he never sat under, but he found the shade of a better one, the tree of Life. The cause was first; and the aged king performed an incomparable work for God.

But where is the application for us?

What should we take home from this lesson?

Though we might see from this story the need for a new vision for our homes or for our nation, we also need to catch a vision for our greatest work. While rebuilding our nation is a great work, building the nation is not the greatest work. While building stronger families is an even greater work, it is not the greatest work. The greatest work in which any of us may ever engage remains in building the House of God.

The House of God, I am referring to is the "holy catholic church," what the Bible calls "the better Temple" – the only one God truly lives in – made up of all who by faith have come to Christ; and it is in this labor that we need to become far sighted.

- Honoring of the Risen Savior through living righteous lives.
- Building up of one another in the church.
- Advancing of the kingdom of God on Earth.
- Discipling the nations, baptizing and teaching them everything Christ taught us.

These are the charges God has given us. This is the greatest work to which we should aspire.

What is your vision for this church?

What is your vision for the work of God in Bedford Virginia?

What is your vision for advancing the kingdom of God in this nation?

We serve a great God; such service demands a great vision.

If Christ delays His return, Bedford will become a vastly different town in the future. Whether that difference will be for better or for worse will depend in no small measure upon the churches of today, including our own congregation. The churches that minister in that future town may not be the same churches, though they must have the same message.

Whether this church will honor God, or stand as a monument of past failure will be determined by our present response to the changes occurring in our world.

On this World Communion Sunday as we gather around Christ's table with brothers and sisters around the world, I urge each one of us who shares in the life of this congregation, that we work to plant trees under which we will never sit; that like David that we determine to help build a great Temple to the glory of God.

May God bless this vision. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Creedal Statement (Philippians 2: 5-11)

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty. All that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours, and You rule over all. Therefore, Lord, receive these offerings, our tangible expressions of love and gratitude. Transform them into a source of life for many, so that Your kingdom may grow in the hearts of all. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation

“Come to the Table”

Martin J. Nystrom

Communion

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

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Hymn 468

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction (Romans 15:4-7)

For whatever was written in former days, was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Postlude

“Since I Have Been Redeemed”

arr. Hayes

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory
of Janet Neal, by Harold Neal and family.

Concerns- October 2nd

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Bobby Miller (nephew) pending heart surgery
- Benton:** Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) transplant
High school friend- prayers
- Blair:** Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well
Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer
- Boone:** Sarah Walker- (daughter) surgery
Nancy Strachan- long covid
Michael Bamber (friend) throat cancer, chemo
Rich Nauman (brother) lives in Tampa, sheltering in place
- 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
- Daniels:** Laurie, caretaker, husband and mother
Michael, (husband) cancer
Pat Clarke (mother) memory care, Elks
- DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments
- Diddams:** Dick & Lois- moving to Liberty Ridge
- Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer
- Fleming:** brother & Ms. Patterson, both have covid
- Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home
Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia
- Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis
- Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse
- Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems
- Johnson family:** loss of father & husband, financial struggles
- 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
Al & Gayle, both have covid
- Meyers:** Patty, health issues
Sister-in-law and husband, live in FLA
- Monk:** Libby, doing well, stent in place
- 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:** Harold- health issues

Nichols: JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease
Poindexter: Heather- rheumatoid arthritis
Rutledge: Freitas family, whole family has covid
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
Kaleb, (Nick's son) recovering from wound tear
Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer
Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia
Tom Richardson- (friend) hospital, afib
Doug Neals- (friend) cancer
Toney: Judy, Oakwood, room 220
Jack Auer (brother) fell, aneurysm
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

October 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Pastor Appreciation Month						1 <i>Memorial service, Janet Neal</i>
2 <i>10 am Worship Communion Prayer Time</i>	3 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	4	5 <i>Something More, 4 pm</i>	6	7	8
9 <i>10 am Worship 5 ¢ a Meal Offering Prayer Time</i>	10 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	11	12 <i>Something More, 4 pm</i>	13	14	15
16 <i>8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Service Session Prayer Time</i>	17 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	18	19 <i>Something More, 4 pm</i>	20	21	22
23 <i>8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Service Potluck Prayer Time</i>	24 <i>Cub Scouts</i>	25	26 <i>Something More, 4 pm</i>	27 <i>Cancer Group, 6 pm</i>	28	29
30 <i>8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Service Prayer Time</i>	31 <i>Cub Scouts</i>					

**On Saturday, October 8th from 9 am to 12 pm,
BPC will be Gleaning Apples for the Society of St. Andrews. Let's meet at the
church at 8:30 am, or
9 am at Johnson's Orchards to pick apples!!!**

If you aren't going to pick apples then check this out;



**Come Join Us for Food- Fun- Friends,
Saturday, October 8th from 11 am to 1 pm.
Featuring local community agencies working for
you and your family needs.
Tasty Chili Samples- Locally Grown Apples -Apple Art for the Kids
at Elba Butcher Shoppe on Washington Street.**

Still have available seats!

Roanoke Pops Christmas Concert-2022

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.

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 October 2nd

Sunday: 8:45 am Sunday School

10 am Worship

Communion

Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

Wednesday: Something More, 4 pm

Sunday: October 9th

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

10 am Worship

5 ¢ a Meal Offering

Prayer Time following service

October Birthdays

Kathy Grigg - 5

Scarlett Stevens - 6

Lori Stetson - 9

Philip Parker - 11

Libby Monk - 21

Patty Meyers - 21

Jim Barefoot - 28

Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Linda Benton - 30

October Anniversaries

Richard & Belvia Tate- 3

Jay & Venus Gould- 5

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Paul & Nancy Van Dyke - 30