

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of November 13<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**

*“Grace Medley”*

Jim Hammerly

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Something More will meet Wednesday at 3pm with Philip Parker leading
- Next Sunday will be Harvest Home Sunday, please bring your food items in for Bedford Christian Ministries collection and prepare your favorite dish to share for the potluck that will follow the service.

**\*Call to Worship** (adapted from John 14:6)

One: People of God, come follow the Way!

**All: We want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.**

One: People of God, come seek the Truth!

**All: We desire to live lives that reflect the love and mercy of our God.**

One: People of God, come embrace the Life!

**All: Jesus is our way, truth, and life! We live our lives in Him!**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*“Christ the Eternal Lord”*

Hymn 335

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

It is easy for us to fall into despair, God. We humans are beset by problems in our world and in our personal lives that seem insurmountable. We confess that instead of bringing our problems to You, Almighty God, we tinker with them ourselves. Forgive us for our folly and remind us that it is only You who can heal us – it is only You who brings wholeness and mercy. Turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh that seek You in both good times and bad. Let us always be reaching for the hem of Your garment. 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**

Luke 15: 8-10

**Hymn**

*“Lost Am I from God My Maker”*

Lynnette Delbridge

My wife, Sherry, says I lose a lot of things. That's not really true. I don't lose them. I just misplace them. How about you? Do you lose, or should I say "misplace" something every now and then? Sure you do. We all do. Whether it's a set of keys, a wallet, or a cell phone things go missing. That's why this brief little passage of Scripture about a lost coin resonates with just about all of us.

So let me begin by saying that when we lose something and eventually find it there is a three stage process that we inevitably experience—"panic," "pursuit" and hopefully "praise." Let me illustrate with a personal example out of my own life. Sherry and I lived in a parsonage when we served a church in Reidsville, North Carolina. Every time I cut the grass, I had to mow around a small, raised metal pipe that marked the edge of the property. One day I decided to fix this inconvenience. I drove the pipe into the ground and went inside to get a metal disk that I could fasten to the pipe at ground level. In that way I could mow right over this boundary marker with no problems. I returned with the disk and looked for the pipe but couldn't find it. That's when the emotion known as "panic" began to rise up. What would the church's property committee say when I told them that I had lost the boundary marker? So I quickly went to the parsonage's tool shed, got a shovel and began stabbing the ground in the hopes of hitting the pipe. That's known as the "pursuit" stage. You are desperately pursuing the lost object, searching for it here, there and everywhere. I made shovel indentations all over that part of the lawn. Finally, I stopped and realized that I needed help from on high. I looked up and prayed, "Lord, I need to find that pipe. If I don't, I'll be terribly embarrassed if I have to explain to the church what happened. Could you please help me?" Now you might not believe this, but this is actually what happened. After the prayer, I took the shovel stabbed the ground and immediately heard a metal clang. I had hit the pipe. That's when the third stage, "praise," took over. I praised the Lord and I was still rejoicing when I went inside and told Sherry what had happened.

My experience is echoed in the account that Jesus told about the woman who lost a silver coin. Hopefully you can imagine the panic that arose within her when she realized that one of her ten coins was missing. With a growing sense of dread that something of great value may be gone forever, she lit a lamp because housing in that part of the world was dark on the inside. Only a small window and a doorway provided any light for most homes. But that wasn't the only problem. Her home like nearly everyone else's home had a dirt floor covered with straw. So it was not just a matter of looking for the coin. It was a matter of sweeping. She began a desperate pursuit, or search for the lost coin, sweeping the entire inside of her home. It may have taken a long time, but she didn't give up. Eventually she saw it mixed in with the straw, reflected perhaps in the light of her lamp. Relieved at long last to have found it, her heart was filled with praise. She went outside and called together her friends and neighbors. Holding up the coin in her hand, she said, "Rejoice with me. I have found my lost coin."

This is a marvelous story and one that everyone who was listening to Jesus could easily understand. The same is true for you and me. We've all lost things. And like the widow and like myself, we've gone in search of them. But why did Jesus tell this story and what message is there within it that you and I can take home with us today? We'll get to that in just a moment, but before we do, I'd like to share a little side note with you that will perhaps prove to be helpful when you lose something. It's called the "Floating Ax Head." It's found in 1 Kings 6:1-7. Briefly stated, here's what happened. A group of prophetic students went down to the Jordan River to cut down trees for a new home. While they were chopping down the trees, an iron ax head flew off one of the handles and fell into the water. This was a great loss, since iron was scarce. Furthermore, the ax had been borrowed. Appealing to Elisha, their master, they asked him to help them retrieve the iron ax head. He agreed. He cut a stick, threw it in the water, and the ax head floated to the surface and was retrieved. Of course, it wasn't Elisha, but Elisha's God who made the iron float. In other words, God was willing to personally intervene to help His people recover that which was lost and the same is true today, even a lost metal boundary marker. Based on my memory of this Scriptural account, I uttered what I call a "floating ax head prayer," and you'd be surprised how often these kinds of prayers have been answered.

Now, getting back to Jesus' story about the lost coin, what can we discern from this account and take home with us today—three things. First, there's the silver coin. It was valuable in one of two ways. It may have represented a day's wages. At 15 dollars per hour for an eight hour work day, this would amount to \$120. That's a pretty good sum of money. I don't know about you, but I would go looking for a coin that was worth that much. Wouldn't you? However, there is another possibility. Women in the days of Jesus sometimes wore a head ornament which was comprised of a string of coins. You may have seen someone adorned like this in a Biblical movie, for example. For a married woman this piece of jewelry would have been like an expensive wedding ring. To lose one of the coins in this treasured possession would be both financially and emotionally distressing, especially for a widow. I suspect that whether the coin represented a day's wages, or was a treasured reminder of a past marriage, the message is unmistakable. Each and every one of us is valuable and that, my friends, is something that we all need to treasure in today's world. Why? Because America suffers from an epidemic of low self-esteem. It's reflected in drug and alcohol addiction and the rising rate of suicide. Turn on the TV and you'll be confronted by a whole host of advertisements for depression medications. We have a low opinion of ourselves. Instead of feeling like a valued coin, many people think of themselves as nothing more than a worn out penny.

Second, there's the widow and her ongoing search for the missing coin. She was not going to give up until she found it. This is a poignant reminder that in God's sight each of us is valuable and deserving of His careful search until we can be reclaimed. Like that coin which may have fallen into a darkened corner covered in filth, God is willing to reach down and pick us up, rub away the grime and let the beauty of our worth once again shine with the reflected glory of His presence. I believe that is exactly what Jesus had in mind when

He was telling this story. Looking into the faces of those who were listening to Him, He saw immense potential and value. They might need His life giving touch to brighten their lives, but they were still valuable, worthy of His attention and concern. In fact, on one occasion that's precisely what He said. Responding to an accusation that He was eating with sinners He replied, "It is not the healthy that need a doctor but the sick. For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:12-13). In other words, I've come in search of lost coins, not treasure that has been tucked away for safe keeping.

Finally, there is that triumphant note of rejoicing. When the coin was recovered, the widow couldn't help herself. She had to tell her friends and neighbors that it had been found. In response, there was a scene of joyous pandemonium, everyone jumping for joy, clapping their hands and rejoicing with this widow as she proudly held up the coin for all to see. In like fashion Jesus said that that's what happens when a sinner repents and turns back to God. It's like finding a lost coin. There is great rejoicing among God's angels in heaven. On more than one occasion I have seen that kind of joy here on earth when a person walked down the aisle and gave their heart and life to the Lord. Friends and family gathered around and there was a time of great rejoicing. I can't help but wonder how much more wonderful it must be in heaven. In fact, I'm reminded of what one pastor said many years ago in response to a sinner's salvation, "I think I hear the clapping of nailed scarred hands."

And speaking of lost coins and the clapping of nailed scarred hands, let me tell you about a coin that no one thought would ever be recovered. Born in London in 1725, John Newton grew up in the home of a godly mother. However, she died when he was a little boy. So he went to sea with his dad, a sea captain. That proved to be an unfortunate decision, for he embraced a sailor's life in the worse kind of way. Wine, women and song, along with a dishonorable discharge from the Royal Navy, landed him among the dregs of society. Eventually he became the captain of slave ships carrying human cargo across the stormy Atlantic. Even his wicked friends turned against him. But not His God. Like the widow looking for a lost coin, Christ went out upon the high seas of sinfulness and reclaimed this wayward soul. Gradually coming to his senses, John Newton forsook the slave trade and became an ardent champion for its abolishment. He gave his heart and life to Christ and eventually became a well-known and respected pastor in the Church of England. While serving a church in Olney, England, he wrote an autobiographical hymn which we still sing today, "Amazing Grace." It describes his journey from wretchedness to salvation through the unfathomable grace of God. Near the end of his life, both blind and in frail health he said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior!"

There are lots of lost coins in our world today. Like Newton, they may be worn and disfigured by abuse and neglect. Nevertheless they are precious to the Lord, and He will never stop looking for them. May we endeavor to join Him in that search, so that we along with all of the angels in heaven can rejoice when they are found.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

### **Worship Song**

*“Amazing Grace”*

Hymn 422

### **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**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

In offering You these gifts, gracious God, we are offering the best of ourselves. We ask You to add Your blessing to these gifts, and to the work these gifts will do, as we seek to be Your ever-more-faithful disciples, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

### **Hymn**

*“Wonderful Grace of Jesus”*

Hymn 362

## **THE SENDING FORTH**

### **Benediction** (attributed to St. Patrick)

May your days be many and your troubles be few.  
May all God’s blessings descend upon you.  
May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.  
May you find what you’re seeking wherever you roam.  
May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the hand of God protect us, may the Word of God direct us.  
May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore. Amen.

### **Postlude**

Instrumental

## Joys- November 13<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** That our church has three very talented pastors

## Concerns- November 13<sup>th</sup>

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery
- Benton:** Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) transplant  
High school friend- prayers  
Sister-in-law, breast cancer  
Coy Kestner- (cousin) daughter passed away, leaving 4 children
- Blair:** Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well  
Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer
- Boone:** Michael Bamber (friend) throat cancer, chemo
- Chryssikos:** Kathy, eye infection
- 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  
Al & Gayle- Gayle health issues, Al caretaker
- Creasy:** Walker Wright (Elizabeth's brother) stroke
- Daniels:** Laurie, caretaker, husband and mother  
Michael, (husband) cancer  
Pat Clarke (mother) memory care, Elks
- DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments
- Diddams:** Dick & Lois- Dick back in hospital
- Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer  
Jan- covid
- Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home  
Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia  
Carla- friend- dialysis
- Goodman:** Charles- blood thinners and dialysis
- 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
- Mausser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches
- Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders  
Families of those who serve  
Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma  
Rev. Pam Ledbetter, auto-immune, diabetes
- Narwid:** Ed- not doing well
- Neal:** Harold- health issues
- Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis  
**Riley:** Christine, mild stroke, doing well  
**Salley:** Jerome (John's father) broke hip, dementia  
Hayes & Emily (brother & sister-in-law) taking care of father  
Travel Mercies for John and Betty  
**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 & Savannah  
**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer  
Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia  
Doug Nelms- (friend) cancer  
Michael Parker- (nephew) health issues  
**Toney:** Judy, has infection, in hospital  
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**

**Prayers for Ukraine**

**Prayers for South Korea and the families affected by the stampede of people**

## November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Something More 3 pm</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Turn clocks back. Daylight Savings ends</i>
<b>6</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion SS Volunteer meeting Prayer Time</i>	<b>7</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Something More 3pm</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker 5 ¢ a Meal Offering Prayer Time</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Something More 3pm</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <i>10 am Service Rev. Philip Parker Harvest Home Potluck Prayer Time</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>10 am Service 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Prayer Time</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>			

## 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 November 13<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
5 ¢ a Meal Offering  
Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

### Wednesday: Something More, 3 pm

Sunday: November 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker  
Harvest Home Food Collection  
Potluck  
Prayer Time following service

### November Birthdays

Judy Harris - 13  
Gerda Schubert - 13  
Bill Rutledge - 23  
Dianne Fain - 29  
Barry Schubert - 30

### November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddams - 25



### BCM is in need of the following:

- All size sheets and blankets
- Wash cloths and towels
- All types of kitchen appliances, (coffee makers, toasters etc)
- Pots and Pans and kitchen utensils
- Irons
- Hygiene products, (shampoo, toothpaste, etc)

If you can help, please drop off at BCM or at the church and we will deliver to them.



## HARVEST HOME November 20<sup>th</sup>



On November 20<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting food for Bedford Christian Ministries Food Pantry.  
The needs are Non-perishable and in date:

Canned meats  
Canned vegetables  
Pop Tarts/ Cereal bars  
Sugar  
Canned spaghetti  
Tea Bags (black tea)  
Pancake Syrup  
Toilet Paper  
Toothpaste  
Bleach and Detergent  
Dish Soap

**Please bring your donations to service and place a  
at the front of the Sanctuary.**

**After the service we will enjoy a “Pot Luck” luncheon** in the fellowship hall. So plan to bring a favorite dish that we can enjoy together as we give thanks for all of the blessings that the Lord has so graciously bestowed upon us.

Also, financial gifts for the **Shepherd’s Table** would be greatly appreciated. They provide meals three times a week. The number of people stopping by for a meal has grown significantly and food costs have risen dramatically.

Please make your checks payable to The Shepherd’s Table.