

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



Week of November 20th

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

"Breathe on Me"
Eric Hollandsworth, Cellist

Kurt Kaiser

Welcome and Announcements

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- There will not be a Something More meeting this week, resuming on November 30th
- Today is Harvest Home Sunday, join us after service for a potluck with great food and fellowship.

Minute for Missions

Stewardship

John Blair

***Call to Worship** (based on Ephesians 3: 8-19)

O God, by Your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with Your fullness. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

"Rejoice, The Lord is King"

Hymn 342

***Prayer of Confession**

O God who gathers us into Your care, we confess that more times than not, we have strayed from You. We have wandered into places of our own choosing, rather than heeding Your call to follow You. We have gotten lost, hurt, waylaid all because we failed to hear You call our names. At times, we have even blocked the path of others who seek You. Be merciful to us, we pray. Welcome us into Your presence once again and remind us that nothing we do can keep us away from You. 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: 11-32

Anthem

"Coming Home"
Eric Hollandsworth, Cellist

Bailey/ Mayo

Of all the stories that Jesus told about lost things in the 15th chapter of Luke, this one is the longest, 21 verses as compared to seven for the lost sheep and only three for the lost coin. It is also the one which strikes closest to home. I became fully aware of that many years ago in my first full-time church in the foothills of North Carolina. A new family moved into the neighborhood and I went to their home and visited with them. They were a lovely family, a father and mother and two children, an older daughter and a younger son. They started attending our church and became members. Frequently, on Sunday afternoons we would gather at their home for a friendly game of touch football. Both parents were devout Christians and it showed in the way they related to their children and to be perfectly honest, the entire church family. Then one day, I received an urgent telephone call. Bill, the husband, said, "Pastor, our teenage daughter has run away. We don't know where she is but we think she may be headed for Charlotte, North Carolina. Would you come to our home?" I immediately stopped everything I was doing and drove to their home. We prayed together and then Bill and I hopped in his little Subaru and drove down the interstate to Charlotte. As you might guess, we didn't find her. In fact, she went missing for a long, long time. Mom and Dad faithfully attended services each Sunday, but I could tell they were hurting. On more than one occasion I saw a tear sliding down the cheek of Barbara during the service. They were in agony. It's never easy to be the parent of a lost son or daughter, and the same was true in the days of Jesus.

The people who were listening to Jesus could easily identify with the father in this story. Basically the youngest of two brothers goes to his father and asks to receive his portion of the inheritance ahead of time. In other words, "Dad, I don't want to wait until you die to receive my portion of our family's wealth. How about giving it to me right now!" Sounds a little callous doesn't it and it was. But sometimes in the ancient world a father who was getting up in age would disburse his possessions among his sons and retire from the affairs of the world. In the case of this father, the older son would receive two-thirds of the estate and the younger one a third. That was the law according to Deuteronomy 21:15-17. So the younger son received his third of the inheritance and promptly left the family farm. He moved to a distant country where life was easy and exciting. He wasted his inheritance in wild living and eventually found himself penniless, alone and a stranger in a foreign land. To make matters worse, a severe famine had befallen the country where he was now living. Unable to find employment, he ended up a swineherd, feeding another man's pigs. For a Jewish young man this represented the very depths of degradation. I'm sure he remembered what he had been taught as a child, "Cursed is he who feeds swine." Nevertheless, he was so hungry that he would have eagerly eaten the food set aside for the pigs, but no one gave him permission to do even that. He had sunken into the mire of absolute worthlessness.

Fortunately, however, this young man finally came to his senses and made a heartfelt decision. He realized that his foolish and impertinent behavior had nearly destroyed him. Humbled and genuinely repentant, he said to himself, "Here I am nearly

starving to death and yet my father's servants have more than enough to eat. I will go home and say to my father, 'I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" Getting to his feet he began the long journey back home.

Every day, the young man's father had looked wistfully down the country lane that led to his farm. Perhaps, he thought, this will be the day when my son returns home. But each day was the same, no son. Then one afternoon he saw a ragged figure far off in the distance. Could it be? The man was stooped over and appeared to be almost at the point of collapse. But without a doubt the father knew that this distant apparition was indeed his son. He got to his feet and on aged legs ran to his son, embracing him and kissing him on both cheeks. Falling to his knees, his son said, "Father, I have sinned against you and against heaven. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." His father, however, would hear nothing of it. Turning to one of his servants he said, "Quick, bring one of our finest robes and put it on him, place the family ring on his finger, put new sandals on his feet and prepare a fatted calf for a celebratory dinner. For this my son was dead and is alive. He was lost and has been found." And so the festivities began.

Of course, as the story continues we learn that the elder brother was not so pleased to hear the good news of his brother's return. In fact, he had probably hoped that his younger, trouble making brother would never come back home. And now here he was and everyone was making over him. He was angry and hurt. He would have nothing to do with this festive homecoming. His reaction and what it signifies is a message for another day. So rather than delving into it, let us focus our attention on what the father said to this older brother, trying to convince him to join in the celebration. He exclaimed, "But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found."

Now what does this beloved story have to say to you and me? Of course, it describes God's love for us, even when we go astray. But there are some other things that it tells us about our Father in heaven. Let me share them with you. First, God will let us run our own lives, even if we make a mess out of them. During my years of pastoral ministry, I've certainly seen that over and over again and so have you. For example, we've done our best to show our children the right way of life, but that doesn't mean they will heed our advice, or follow in our footsteps. The same is true with regards to God's children. The Lord instructed the ancient Israelites in the way that they should live with Him and with one another. As we all know from the Scriptures, that didn't always happen. In fact, it seems like it rarely happened. Saint Paul aptly described this wayward tendency in Romans 1:21-24. Speaking of humanity's propensity for rebellion and moral degeneracy, he said, "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of

their bodies with one another.” Like the young man who left home and engaged in wild lifestyle in a distant land, God will let us go our own way. It breaks His heart but He knows that that’s the way it has to be. He wants us to love and obey Him, not because we have to, but because we want to. He will not shackle our free will so that we are compelled to serve Him. He is not a divine dictator.

Here’s the second thing that it tells us about our heavenly Father. He will not rescue us from our waywardness until we are truly repentant. The father in this story did not rescue his son. He did go to that foreign land and try to talk him into returning home. He did not send one of his servants to find the young man and if necessary buy his release from slopping the pigs. He was not an enabler and neither is our heavenly Father. He believes in tough love. He will not deliver us from our sins until we are truly ready to give them up, until we come to our senses and start on that long journey back home. Remember Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost. The people who heard him were so convicted by what he said that they cried out, “What shall we do?” In response, Peter told them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). God is patiently waiting, standing on the doorstep of heaven, longing for that day, that moment when we repent and return home.

Finally, there is one more thing that this story tells us about our heavenly Father’s love for us. He earnestly desires to forgive us when we go astray and to restore us into the fellowship of His family. What did the father in this story do when he saw his son far off in the distance? He ran to him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. He asked his servants to put the best robe on his shoulders, the family ring on his finger and a pair of new shoes on his feet. In other words, the young man was once again a full-fledged member of the family. Like this scene that Jesus so beautifully portrayed, when a sinner comes home, our heavenly Father is ready to embrace him and welcome him back into the family. Hear again these words from the letter of 1st John in the New Testament, “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God” (1 John 3:1).

And just in case you’re wondering what that means for our lives right here and now on good old planet earth, let me tell you about a young man who had been a student at the university where I attended. He was a gifted musician who played in a band that did gigs at local bars in downtown Richmond. As is so often the case, the music and drinking went hand in hand until one day he woke up in the back seat of his car covered in the remains of the past evenings excesses. That’s when he came to his senses, stopped drinking, reunited with his family, accepted Christ as his savior and decided to re-enroll as a student at the university. He only had one problem. No money for tuition. One day his wife and son were buying groceries at a local supermarket. The store was hosting a raffle for a new car. The son, who was so proud of his dad and the change in his life said, “Mom, let’s fill out the raffle ticket and stick it in the box. If we win, dad can sell the car and go to school.” His mom replied, “We never win anything, but if you say so, we’ll give it a try. I know how much your dad wants to go back to school.” They filled out the ticket and

dropped it in the box. And guess who won the car and went back to school? God does have a way of putting shoes on our feet, a robe on our shoulders and a ring on our finger when we come to our senses and head back home.

Years ago, a young man just out of his teenage years decided to leave home. He was tired of the hardscrabble existence on the family farm. He didn't get along with his parents and he was always arguing with his brothers and sisters. "I've had it," he told them. "I'm leaving and I'm never coming back." He packed up what few belongings he possessed and headed down the road to a new future. Sure enough he found what he was looking for, lots of excitement in a big city not too far away. He acquired a new set of friends, even found a few odd jobs to keep his head above water. Things were on the up and up until a major financial depression took hold of the local economy. Things turned south in a hurry. There were no employment opportunities, even for part-time work. His friends disappeared and he found himself in a bread line waiting for whatever handouts were available. That's when he decided that life on the family farm wasn't so bad after all. At least there was food on the table and a place to lay down at night. He decided to write a letter. In the letter he said, "Mom and Dad, I'm sorry for all the mean things I said to you before I left home. Please forgive me. I want to come home. I'm going to catch a ride on the old train that runs by our home. If you want me to get off, just tie an old rag on the big tree in the front yard. If you don't, I'll understand. I've made a lot of mistakes and done some really stupid things." With the last few coins that he had to his name, he bought a ticket a week later and boarded the train that ran by his home. Along the way he struck up a conversation with the passenger sitting beside him. The closer he got the more nervous he became. Would there be a rag, a ribbon, anything at all tied to one of the branches? As the train chucked around the last curve, the young man couldn't stand it any longer. He turned to the man sitting beside him and said, "In just a moment this train will be going by an old farm house with a great big tree in the front yard. I can't stand to look, I'm just too scared, but if you see anything hanging on that tree would you please tell me?" The train slowly made its way around the curve, the young man squeezing his eyes together for fear of what he would or would not see. Then suddenly he was being shaken by two burly hands and a booming voice which declared, "Open your eyes young man. Take a look at that tree. It's covered in rags!"

I don't know if this story that I heard many years ago became the inspiration for that once popular song, "Tie a Yellow Ribbon around the Old Oak Tree." But whether it did or not, one thing is for sure. Our Father God has tied a great big red, blood stained ribbon on the Crucifixion Tree of Calvary and said to each and every one of us, "Come home!!"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

Rodgers & Wyse

Creedal Statement (adapted from 1 Peter 2: 24-25)

Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were going astray like sheep, but now have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Praise the Lord, The Lord's name be praised.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving Father, You have given us so much and there is so much need in this world. Jesus taught us that to whom much is given, much is expected. Help us to freely reach out in love to our brothers and sisters of this world who need Your special touch. Use these gifts we now offer to You to help spread Your love in this world of need. 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

"Jesus Shall Reign"

Hymn 341

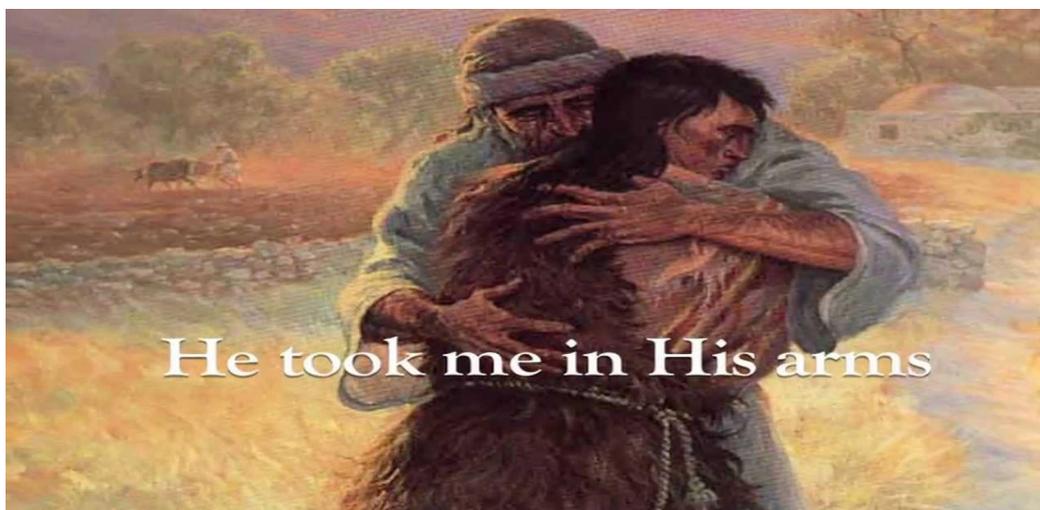
THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction (2 Thessalonians 2: 16...3:16)

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word... And, may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way...

Postlude

Instrumental



Joys- November 20th

Joy- First multi-church youth outing, joy to hear children

Joy- Eunice's friend Michelle Goode in service

Joy- Bill Rutledge's music reinforces message

Concerns- November 20th

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

Travel mercies for daughter

Blair: Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Boone: Michael Bamber (friend) recovering from chemo

Daughter was laid off

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

Alan (friend's brother) multi health issues

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

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

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

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

Mauser: 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) leukemia

Rev. Pam Ledbetter, auto-immune, diabetes

Narwid: Ed- not doing well
Neal: Harold- health issues, Alpha Gal
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
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, surgery on heel
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

November 2022

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

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Harvest Home Food Collection
Potluck
Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

Wednesday: NO Something More

**Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving, office closed
NO Cancer Support Group**

Sunday: November 27th
10 am Worship
First Sunday of Advent
Prayer Time following service

November Birthdays

Bill Rutledge - 23
Dianne Fain - 29
Barry Schubert - 30

November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddams - 25

December Birthdays

Nancy Dwyer - 4
John Blair- 10
Bill Mitchell - 17
Shawn Webb - 18
Kathy Chryssikos - 24
Jade Creasy - 28
Gayle Mauser - 30

December Anniversaries

Ken & Charlotte McManis - 3
Al & Gayle Mauser - 12
Roy & Libby Monk - 20



BCM Ongoing Needs

The following are items that are needed the most, if you can help, you can drop your items at BCM, or place in box in hallway beside elevator on the ground floor and we'll deliver.

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

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 Shepherd's Table.