

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



Week of June 25th

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.

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.



A Biblically & Prayerfully Guided
Christian Family of Disciples
Loving God & Serving Others

Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and

Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of

Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others

THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"Abide with Me"

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Minute for Missions

Youth Camp Report

***Call to Worship**

One: Praise the Lord, you His servants; praise the name of the Lord.

All: Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

One: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

All: Then what are we waiting for. Let us worship the Lord with all our hearts and make His praise glorious.

***Hymn**

"You Servants of God"

Hymn 112

*** Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we can be so full of fear at times – afraid of the unknown; afraid of what is beyond our control; afraid of what is strange to us. And we know that fear stops us in our tracks, hinders our action and gives excuse for not doing what You call us to do and what You empower us to do. So we pray that You will give us courage, O God. Give us strong hearts and open hands, that we might set aside our fear and walk confidently into this world You have made. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: In the freedom and joy that His love provides, let us proclaim this good news.

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

Children's Time

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Joshua 2: 1-24, Hebrews 11:30-31

Praise Song

"You're Worthy of My Praise"

Hymn 648

From time to time we all hear stories about spies. Sometimes they belong to our country. Sometimes they belong to our adversaries. Either way spying has always been a part and indeed an important part, of almost every nation on the face of the earth. In fact, several years ago my son took me to the International Spy Museum in Washington, D. C. It was a fascinating visit. I saw all kinds of spy hardware, even one of the Aston Martin sports cars from the James Bond movies. I also learned that going all the way back to the Revolutionary War, George Washington had a network of spies that kept him well informed about what the British were up to. It's therefore, not surprising to discover that Joshua sent two spies to take a look around Jericho before the Israelites crossed over the Jordan into the Promised Land. Jericho was a big city with high walls. If it was not taken, the people of Israel would never be able to take possession of the land that the Lord had given to them.

So let's take a look at what happened as recorded in the second chapter of the book of Joshua. It reads like a good spy novel. Joshua selects two spies and sends them into the city, possibly dressed like weary, traveling merchants. Looking for a place to stay, they select the house of Rahab, located in the "red light district," an obvious choice for two reasons. First of all, it's a place where they can secure lodging without a lot of questions. Second, it is a great place to get an inside scoop on what's going on. Do the people of Jericho know about the Israelites? Are they scared or preparing for battle? Are there any weaknesses that can easily be exploited?

They are just getting settled in when the mistress of the establishment, Rahab, confronts them. She's no fool. These two men don't look like her usual clientele. They speak with a foreign accent and in spite of their disguises, it's obvious that they are something more than what they appear to be. Almost immediately she realizes that they are Israelites and that she and her entire household are in danger. If discovered in her home, both they and all of her family will be imprisoned and probably executed. Even as she is considering what to do, she hears the sound of approaching footsteps. Soldiers are coming down the street towards her door, sent by the king who suspects that she is harboring fugitives. Summoning one of her servants, she sends the spies upstairs. She tells her servant, "Hide them under the bundles of flax that are drying on the flat rooftop."

Then, thinking quickly, she comes up with a story that she hopes the soldiers will believe. Arriving at her front door, they demand, "Where are they, those two men who came to your house? The king has sent us to arrest them. They are spies." Rehab replies, "I don't know where they are. They were here earlier, but they left just before you closed the gates at dusk. Hurry and go after them. Perhaps you can catch them before they cross over the river." Searching her home and not finding the spies, the soldiers finally believe her story and head off in pursuit of the two intruders.

Later that night, Rehab meets with the two spies on her rooftop. She tells them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you" (Joshua 2:9). She goes on to recite all of the victories that the Israelites have already won on the eastern side of the Jordan, all of the victories that everybody in the city already knows about. Having expressed her faith in the

God of the Israelites, she then asks, “Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death” (Joshua 2:12-13). “Our lives for yours’,” the spies respond. “But be sure to remember this. When our army attacks, keep everyone inside this house. That’s the only way we can promise they’ll be safe.”

Later that night, she throws a rope out the window of her home because it backs up directly to the outer wall of the city. Before sliding down the rope, the spies tell her, “Tie a scarlet cord to this window. It will be the sign for your deliverance from harm when the battle begins. However, if you tell anyone about us our promise to you is null and void.” She agrees and after three days of hiding in the Judean hills, the spies recross the Jordan and report to Joshua. They tell him, “The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us” (Joshua 2:24).

Now what does all of this have to do with our church? You may be surprised, but in many respects, selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee is like sending out a group of spies. Instead of surveying the strengths and weaknesses of a city, this committee has been given the responsibility of searching for and scouting out the individual who will become the next pastor of our church. Having served as an advisor to two pastor search committees in the past, there are some important similarities between what our Pastor Nominating Committee will be doing and the two spies that were sent out on a reconnaissance mission to Jericho.

First, spying out the land requires courage and devotion. The spies who were sent to Jericho were risking their lives. They had to be completely dedicated to the task before them. Unlike those spies, our Pastor Nominating Committee need not fear for their lives, but it will require a courageous determination and a wholehearted devotion to that which they have been called to do. They will be going forth into what for some of them may, be a new set of circumstances and situations. Imagine for just a moment that just like a spy, you were sent to a land with different customs and even a different language. Wouldn't you feel a little uncertain, a little anxious about your mission? Well, finding a minister for a church takes a Pastor Nominating Committee into a new realm, one which at times can be somewhat intimidating and quite different from what most of us experience on a day to day basis. Like those spies, serving on a Pastor Nominating Committee requires a courageous devotion to what you have been called to do.

Spying out the land also requires diligent research and insight. The spies who were sent to Jericho needed to discover the strengths and weaknesses of this citadel in the Jordan valley. Were the people ready to fight the Israelites or were they frightened of this new adversary? Our Pastor Nominating Committee will likewise be doing a lot of research as they gather resumes, check credentials and perform background checks of the various prospects. In many ways, they will be like those officials in the CIA who spend hours and hours poring over hundreds of documents, searching for those vital pieces of information that will make their endeavors successful. More than one church has been embarrassed and even harmed because their search committee did not thoroughly investigate the person whom they had selected to present to the church as the congregation's next pastor.

Finally, spying out the land requires secrecy and stealth. The spies that Joshua sent out could not walk into Jericho and announce, "We're here to check out your defenses before our soldiers cross the Jordan and attack your city." They had to sneak in and then sneak out. Years ago, before all of today's electronic wizardry, that was easier said than done. A Pastor Nominating Committee would try to sneak into a church to hear a prospective pastor's sermon without being noticed. Sometimes they would come as a group. That was a dead giveaway. Sometimes they would try to come in one at a time. That didn't work either. It was like they had a sign hanging around their necks saying, "We are a search committee who have come to hear your pastor." Today, most pastors' sermons are on line so those kind of visits are no longer necessary. Nevertheless, you would be surprised how many times a church begins to sense that their pastor is thinking about leaving. So our committee will have to be careful and not just in alerting another church about their pastor's intentions. They will have to also be careful about sharing information prematurely with our own congregation. Do not expect to hear a great deal from our Pastor Nominating Committee until they are ready to present the one whom they feel has been called to be our next pastor.

So, in summary, I want to remind you of what the Lord said to Joshua a long, long time ago. Those words are just as true today as they were then, especially with regards to our Pastor Nominating Committee. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"I Fix My Eyes on You"

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

"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

The needs of this world still come to Your door, O God. Receive these offerings we bring. Use them in touching lives in significant ways: ways that bring strength, ways that renew hope, ways that lift up and reach out with love that You would still make incarnate. May we be the body of Christ today and may these gifts above all else exercise Christ's ministry. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.

****Worship Song***

"Enjoy You Forever"

Junko Ching

Prayer for the Pastor Nominating Committee

THE SENDING FORTH

****Benediction***

Postlude

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Shackley

The flowers this morning are given by Philip and Sherry Parker to the Glory of God and in honor of all of those who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries during this summer. The Parker's will be celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary this month.

Joys- June 25th

Joy- wonderful, joy filled week with youth at Montreat, thankful for church support

Joy- Nancy Van Dyke- for Good Samaritan that helped fix son's car

Concerns- June 25th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care, passing of Frank

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Benton: Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) having problems with transplant

High school friend- prayers

Sister-in-law, breast cancer

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

Glenn Harris- uncle- seriously ill in hospital

Blair: Larry (John's brother) heart attack, 2 stents, home

Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin- (friend) blood clots

Clarke: Weebie- hospice care

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

Zoey Foster- (child) injury to abdomen, doing well

Vicky- (friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

Travel mercies as they visit Larry's brothers

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham (friend) health issues, Carolyn, wife caretaker

Creasy: Walker Wright (Elizabeth's brother) stroke

DeHart: Dawn's mother radiation treatments

DeWitt: Gerald's father in rehab, then assisted living

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

Tom- breathing problems

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goodman: travel mercies for family

Gould: attendance for cancer group

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Grubb: John- heart issues

Harris: Judy- niece needs help after death in family

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-doing better

McManis: Ken- seeing neurosurgeon

Meyers: Prayers for family on passing of Patty
Bill (Brother) – daughter medical problems

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
For our church as we go through transition
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung
John Hargett (friend) woke up paralyzed

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Nichols: for family who doesn't know the Lord

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

Schubert: Gerda- multiple strokes

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord
Marcus (Sonya's brother) waiting on biopsy results

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah- 2 surgeries, in Pediatric wing

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel (friend) MS
Rick Anderson (niece's husband) home recovering

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

Pray for World Peace

Tornado destruction across country

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion Prayer Time</i>	3	4 <i>Happy Fourth of July! Office closed</i>	5	6	7	8 <i>Ecumenical Youth 4pm</i>
9 <i>10 am Worship Session 5¢ a Meal Prayer Time</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 <i>10 am Service Prayer time</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>10 am Service Prayer Time</i>	24	25	26	27 <i>Cancer Support</i>	28	29 <i>Bedford Hiking Club 9am</i>
30 <i>10 am Worship Prayer Time</i>	31					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of June 25th

Sunday: 10 am Worship, Rev. Philip Parker
Prayer time following service

Sunday: July 2nd
10 am Worship, Rev. Philip Parker
Communion
Prayer time following service

June Birthdays

Betty Salley – 25

June Anniversaries

Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

July Birthdays

Lois Diddams - 2

Helen Heinrich - 4

Ryan Johnson- 6

Margaret Morris - 9

Charlotte McManis- 11

Janet Yodis – 13

Larry Compter- 18

Weebie Clarke - 22

Nancy Van Dyke - 22

Jay Gould – 31

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PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Presbyterians Men's Conference will take place
July 21st through the 23rd at Massanetta Springs Conference
Center in Harrisonburg.

Registration is open, please go to www.midatlanticmen.org
to register and you can join Ron Morris for a
weekend of inspiring workshops, challenging
keynotes and recreational activities like zip-lining,
golfing and a cave tour.

Space may be limited, so please if you are
interested, register soon.

If wanting more information, please contact Ron Morris.

Notes from Rev. Parker

Reverend Parker will be having office hours at the church on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 am and noon each week. He will be available at other times upon request. You can call him directly or contact the church office if you would like to schedule a meeting. He will confirm the appointment by getting back in touch with you.

Joshua Sermon Series: We hope you have been enjoying the sermon series from the book of Joshua. This coming Sunday we'll be taking a look at what happened when Joshua sent two spies on a reconnaissance mission to the city of Jericho (Joshua 2:1-24). The next week, July 2, we'll be taking a brief look at all the other events that took place under Joshua's leadership as well as his concluding words to Israel at the end of his life and ministry. The book of Joshua is an exciting adventure, filled with miraculous accounts of the various ways in which the Lord came to the aid of His people as they moved into the Promised Land. You will not be disappointed if you take the time to read this Old Testament book.

Youth Meeting: The next meeting of our Multi-Church Youth Ministry will take place on July 8th, 4:00 to 7:30 pm at the home of John and Judy Blair. Activities will include "water balloon" baseball, Bible study, hot dog dinner, and tons of wet fun. Everyone should wear clothing they don't mind getting wet plus a change of dry clothing and a towel.

Church Directory: Please help us to keep our church directory up to date. If you have a change of address or a new telephone number, contact the church office. Also, if the information in our current church directory is incorrect, let us know. We have no other way to insure that our contact information is correct. Thanks so much for your assistance.

Congregational giving is above budget, thank you all so much!

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FORECAST 2023	ACTUAL MAY 2023	ACTUAL YTD 2023
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	\$ 196,609.00	\$ 22,506.91	\$ 85,000.98
-- CONGREGATIONAL GIVING FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$ 145,000.00	\$21,326.79	\$ 79,155.13
-- MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 51,609.00	\$ 1,180.12	\$ 5,845.85
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSE	\$ 202,875.70	\$ 14,655.69	\$ 80,897.16
BUDGETED SPENDING (OVER) UNDER INCOME	\$ (6,266.70)	\$ 7,851.22	\$ 4,103.82