

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



Week of August 27th

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

“Dearest Jesus, We are Here”

Bach

Words of Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.

All: Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre.

One: Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

All: For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.

***Hymn**

“Come, Children of the Risen King”

Getty

*** Prayer of Confession**

Loving Father, we confess that we are often prone to murmuring and complaining—sins that display unbelief in You and pride in ourselves. Help us to live lives that are pure and blameless as children of God. Help us to hold fast to the word of life and appear as a light in the midst of a crooked and perverse world so that our lives may give honor to the Lord, who died for us and rose again to give us His eternal life. In His name we pray, Amen

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ, we have been born again to new life.

***Gloria**

“Glory to the Father”

Bill Rutledge

Children’s Time

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Philippians 2:12-18

Anthem

“Hallowed Be Thy Name”

Women’s Ensemble

Sermon

A Nugget of Joyful Radiance

Years ago my son and I were at a summer camp with the Boy Scouts. One night as we carried our gear to my car in preparation for leaving early the next morning, I looked up and saw a beautiful sight. The sky was filled with twinkling stars that were so bright, it felt like you could almost reach up and touch them. After we had put our packs in the back of the car, I said to Tim, "Look up." He did and responded with just one word, "WOW!"

Have you ever had a similar experience, an opportunity to view the heavens on a really dark night? If not you ought to. It will take your breath away as you gaze upon thousands and thousands of bright little orbs, shining ever so wonderfully in a darkened sky. As you take in this sight, you will notice that some stars are brighter than others. Here's why. A star's brightness is determined by how far away it is and how hot it is. The more distant the star, the less bright and the hotter or cooler and the greater or less brilliance it possesses. The brightest star in the nighttime sky, especially one that we can see in the wintertime, is known as Sirius. Compared to most of the other stars in the universe, it's fairly close to us, about 8.7 light years away. It's also twice as big as our sun and it has a blue-white color, which means that it is plenty hot. That's why it was named Sirius, a Greek word which when translated into English means "glowing."

Paul, like all of the people living in his day and time, were familiar with the heavens. He could probably identify Sirius as well as a number of other bright luminaries in the evening sky. Perhaps that's what inspired him to write to his friends in Philippi that they should strive to shine like the stars. If he were right here with us this morning, I suspect that he would tell us the same thing. He would want us to also shine with a joyful brilliance just like the stars. So let's take a look at what he said to the Philippians and see if what he had to say to them can bring a little extra brightness into our own lives.

In today's passage of Scripture there are two very important things that Paul is saying to us. Here's the first one. Encouraging the Philippians to obey his instructions, he told them in verse 12 to "work out their salvation with fear and trembling." Whoa, stop right there! What did he just say? Isn't that diametrically opposed to just about everything Paul ever said about being saved. In his letter to the Ephesians, for example, he wrote, "For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). In these verses and in countless other places throughout his letters, Paul makes it perfectly clear that we are powerless to save ourselves. It's what God accomplished through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ, that opens the door to our deliverance from sin. So, what's going on here. It sounds like Paul is contradicting himself. Or is he?

Take a look at the next verse. It reads, "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13). Sounds like God is still involved, even while we're anxiously trying to somehow work out our own deliverance. What's going on here? Perhaps a military illustration will prove to be helpful. When a person joins the army, that does not mean that this individual is ready for the battlefield. It means that he has made a commitment to serve our nation, a commitment which will require a lot of training—marching, hiking, exercising and learning how to use the weapons of war. At times it will be a dangerous and even terrifying experience, especially the live ammunition drills. Additionally, there will be the oversight of the drill sergeant. Nothing escapes his watchful eye and his forceful demeanor. Then, finally, at long last, after six weeks of intense scrutiny, the soldier who was a raw recruit, who knew almost nothing about what he had gotten himself into, has now become a real soldier. When he joined up about the only thing he could do was put on his uniform. He was a soldier, but in name only. Now he possesses the skills and abilities which will enable him to serve his country honorably.

That's precisely what Paul was talking about in these verses of Scripture. When a person accepts Christ, not because he has earned the privilege, but because he has accepted Christ as his Savior, that individual is like a raw recruit. He has been saved by God's grace and his name has been added to the Lamb's Book of Life in heaven. But that's not the end of it. Being a Christian, a person who is ready for active duty, involves a lot more than just signing up. It involves being a student of the manual of instruction, the Bible and it involves listening to the drill sergeant, the inner voice of the Holy Spirit. Why is that necessary? Because God is in the business of transforming us from buck privates into "First Class Christians."

The second thing that Paul is telling us in this passage of Scripture can be summed up in his own words in verse fourteen. "Do everything without complaining or arguing." Have you ever worked with someone who was always complaining, always arguing? It's one of the most unpleasant things that any of us will ever experience. In fact, I don't know about you, but I tend to avoid these kinds of people whenever possible. Unfortunately that can't always be accomplished. I remember one such person in the church that I served years ago who could have received an award for her disruptive spirit. She found fault with anything and everything. In fact, the office at the school where her children attended hated to see her walking up to the front door of the building. They knew she had arrived to complain and that she was going to make life difficult for everyone.

Evidently, there was something of a similar nature taking place in Philippi. In the fourth chapter of his letter, Paul wrote, "I plead with Eudodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord" (Philippians 4:2). Paul knew that this kind of conflict could be quite harmful to the well-being of a congregation and he was correct. When there is discord and strife in a church, it not only harms the fellowship of that congregation, but it also diminishes their ability to witness to others. Who wants to join a church where everybody is fighting with one another? Therefore, Paul wanted these two women and indeed the entire church family to be blameless in terms of working together, living exemplary lives that would serve as an example to attract others, not drive them away. He wanted them to be like stars, shining brightly in a sin darkened world, sharing their faith with such a joyful brilliance, that a multitude of people would be drawn to Christ. Thankfully, I believe that what Paul desired for the Christians in Philippi is reflected in the life of our church. We possess a spirit of cordiality that permeates our fellowship of believers. We enjoy being together and working together and that's a good thing. Paul would be proud of us.

He also wanted to be proud of the church in Philippi. In case you haven't figured this out yet, Paul thought of himself as the spiritual father of that congregation. He had helped to birth it. He had nurtured it in faith and he had kept in touch with it over the years. Facing the possibility of martyrdom, he knew that once in heaven, he'd have to give a report of what he had accomplished. Jesus would ask him, "Ok, Apostle Paul. Tell me about that church in Philippi." Paul didn't want to say that he'd worked hard, but had nothing to show for all his efforts. Just the opposite. He wanted to be able to boast about the way those Christians were holding on tightly to the Word of Life, sharing it with those who lived around them. Even if Paul was going to have to forfeit his life like a sacrificial offering, as long as those folks in Philippi were still serving the Lord, it would be worth it. That realization brought joy to his heart and he hoped joy to the hearts of those beloved friends to whom he was writing.

Likewise, let us endeavor to bring joy to all of God's people here on earth as well as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's work hard to be the very best Christians that we can be, constantly training and developing new skills and abilities that will enable us to more effectively serve the Lord. As soldiers in God's army let's do everything we can to please our commanding officer, the Lord, Jesus Christ. Furthermore, instead of complaining and arguing when we're given an assignment, let's reply with a vigorous salute and the words, "Yes, Sir! It's my pleasure Sir."

Years ago, a widow lady lived in a small home in a difficult part of town. She started attending a church several blocks away. Eventually she became a Christian and joined that congregation. One Sunday morning after the service, she told the pastor, "Now that I'm a Christian, I'm going to move to a better neighborhood where things are a bit nicer." In response, the pastor asked her this question, "What if there was only one overhead light on the street where you live and someone came along and took it down. Don't you think it would be terribly dark at night?" Several months later the widow once again greeted the pastor after the service. Gently smiling she told him, "Pastor, I'm pleased to tell you that there are now two lights shining in my neighborhood."

The next time you go outside at night and look up at all the stars, perhaps even identifying the brightest one of all, Sirius, I want you to offer this prayer, "Lord Jesus, let me shine like the stars." That will be more precious than a nugget of gold because you will have something in your possession which is even more valuable, a NUGGET OF JOYFUL BRILLIANCE.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Shine Your Light"

Dan Adler

Affirmation of Faith

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 Blessing Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Light of the world, you have created us to reflect your light so that others may be able to see in the darkness. Thank You for the ways Your light shines in us and for the time we have been given to share your light. Help us to realize how much the light grows when we share it. Give us the courage to also share the light of our time, talent, and treasures to whomever You place in our path. 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.

Hymn

"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

Hymn 541

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"The Acts of God are Righteous"

Walther

Joys- August 27th

Joy- to hear Rev. Morrison and have two of his children with us

Joy- Morris- friend John is now walking

Joy- Deanna- churches in Hawaii are helping those impacted by fire

Joy- Goode, thanks the Deacons and the Groggins are getting help needed

Concerns- August 27th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

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

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

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

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz (brother-in-law) enlarged hand

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) reversal colostomy surgery

Vicky- (friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

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

DeHart: Dawn's mother radiation treatments

Michael Rutter- septic shock

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

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Dallas (friend) going into the hospital with heart issues

Fleming: Family of Steve Trumbecki on his passing

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

Goode: prayers for Eunice, health issues

Rodney & Connie Groggins(husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Grubb: John- heart issues, not feeling well

Harris: Jim- knee replacement trying to find rehab

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches
Gayle-doing better

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) now walking
Messier- family health problems

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Nichols: for family who doesn't know the Lord

Noell: for students and teachers starting school

Parkers: friends surgery and full recovery
Travel mercies for Philip

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) not feeling well

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband
Two firefighters who suffered falls
Garland Robertson- neighbor terminal lung cancer
Those impacted by fires in Hawaii
Berry family- memory issues

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

September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion Aloha Sunday</i>	4 <i>Labor day- office closed</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker 5¢ a Meal</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	25	26	27	28 <i>Cancer Support</i>	29	30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of August 27th

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Sunday: September 3rd

10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Communion

Aloha Sunday

August Birthdays

William Hopkins-29

September Birthdays

Bill Yodis- 2

James Harris 12

Sandy Scheurer 12

Deanna Rutledge 16

Dick Kibbey 17

Christine Riley 18

Harold Neal 19

Barbara Saunders 20

Dick Diddams 21

Ron Morris 24

Jay Barnes 29

September Anniversaries

Jay & Eunice Barnes 11

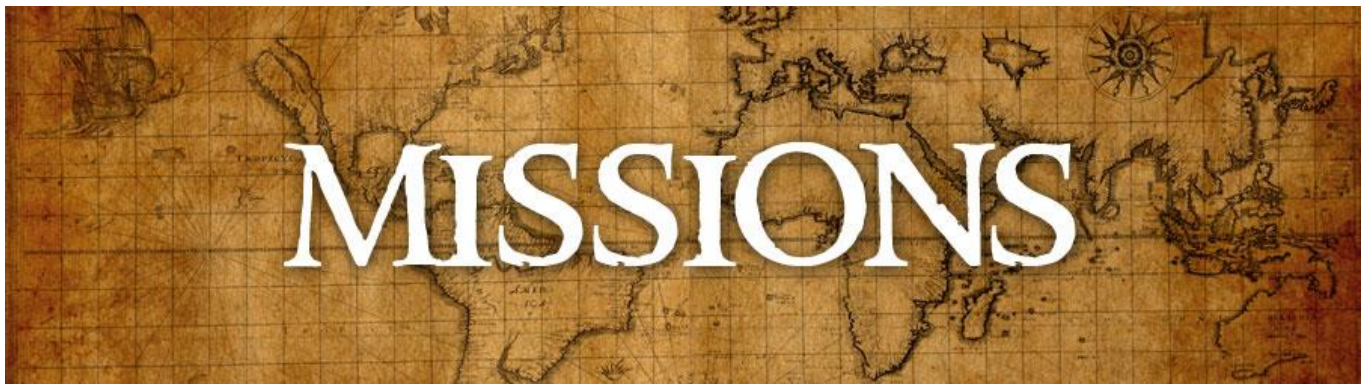
Gerald & Tammy DeWitt 19



Aloha Sunday!!!

September 3rd following the service, we will be having a potluck luncheon. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share and remember to wear your Hawaiian shirt!!!!

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory
of Dot DeShazo, by Dianne Fain



Bedford Presbyterian Supported Missions

Bedford Christian Ministries

Bedford Christmas Store

Bedford Domestic Violence

Bedford Pregnancy Center

Care Portal

Cool Springs Presbyterian Camp

Roanoke Rescue Mission

Heifer Project

Patrick Henry Family Services

Shepherd's Table

Covered

Society of St. Andrews

Murphree's (Heart of Christ)

5¢ a Meal