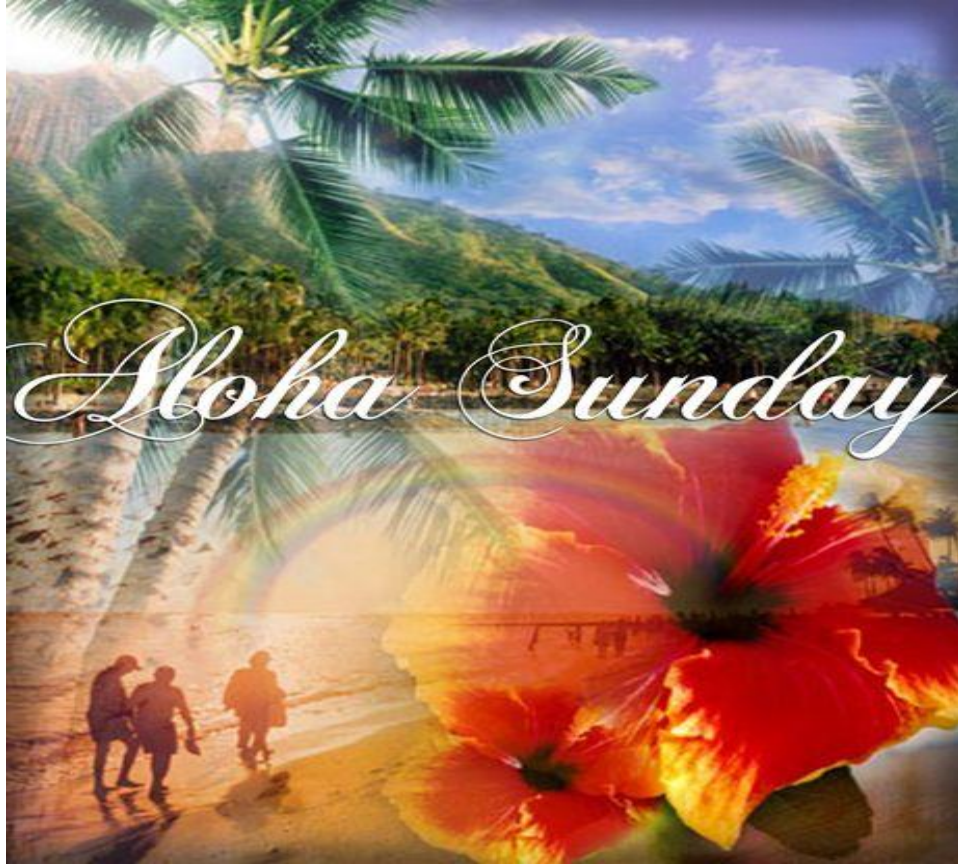


Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



Week of September 3rd

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

“O Kou Aloha No”
(The Queen’s Prayer)

Queen Liliuokalani

Words of Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the ends of the earth,

All: You who go down to the sea and all that is in it, you islands and all who live in them.

One: Let the wilderness and its towns raise their voices;

All: Let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice.

One: Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops.

All: Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands.

***Hymn**

“Sing the Lord a New Song”

Rutledge

*** Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Holy Name. Through 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

Children’s Time

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Philippians 2:19-30

Duet

“There is Someone”

Bill & Deanna

Anthem

“Ekolu Mea Nui”
(Three Greatest Things)

Choir

Sermon

A NUGGET OF JOYFUL COMRADESHIP

In 2001 a miniseries began its run on television. It was called 'Band of Brothers'. Based upon Stephen Ambrose's non-fiction book by the same name, it portrayed the history of "Easy" Company, 2nd Battalion, 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division during World War II. In ten episodes the miniseries told the story of these soldiers from their airborne training in Georgia all the way through to the end of the war. Some of you, I'm sure, saw one or more of the episodes. Various events were dramatized from their initial training, including the various battles in which they were engaged, the liberation of a concentration camp in Germany and finally the taking of Hitler's mountain retreat, "Eagles Nest." Throughout the miniseries, including everything they experienced—the moral, mental and physical hurdles of combat—one consistent theme emerged. They were as the name implies a band of brothers. They were bound together through a common mission not only to win the war, but to also support and care for one another until victory was assured.

The same could be said of many groups of veterans who have served our nation. In fact, there may be veterans within our church who are a part of such a group. If not, I know of at least one, my friend Hal Hostetler. He was a ranger in Vietnam. Hopefully one day he will be able to visit our church and bring the message during a Sunday morning worship service. He's a retired missionary and a member of the church where I served. During the Vietnam war, he served with the Combat Trackers, a special force drawn from several different divisions that used canines to search out the enemy. Each year these Combat Tracker veterans gather together for some R and R. They enjoy each other's company, fellowshiping with one another and celebrating the comradeship that comes from having served together overseas. They too are a band of brothers.

The same could also be said for Paul, Silas, Timothy and their friends back in Philippi. Although they did not serve in the legions of Rome, there was a sense of kinship that had developed among them because they were a part of another kind of army, the army of the Lord. In fact, on one occasion Paul said to Timothy in one of his letters, "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 2:3). Like the soldiers of our own day and time, they too cared about one another and sought out opportunities to joyfully support and encourage each other. It is for that reason that I have entitled this sermon "A Nugget of Joyful Comradeship."

Now please do not be put off by the use of the word "comrade." I know that it is frequently associated with Communism and therefore, might be considered inappropriate for a Sunday morning sermon. However, there is just no other word that I could find which adequately describes the kind of joy that Paul and his companions experienced and which we too can hopefully experience as God's people. So let's take a look at what this word means. Here's the dictionary definition—"a friend, close companion, a person who has interests or concerns in common with others and shares in their activities." That's a pretty good description of the relationship that Paul enjoyed not only with Silas and Timothy, but also with the Christians in Philippi. They were partners, working steadfastly together to advance the kingdom of God. That's why Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians.

So let's take a look at this nugget of joyful comradeship in the passage of Scripture that was read this morning and see how it applies to us. Here's the first thing that joyful comradeship accomplishes. It provides us with an opportunity to express our concern for one another. Writing to the Philippians, Paul told them that he was sending Timothy in the hopes of receiving a good report when he returned. He said, "I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you" (Philippians 2:19). He was concerned about his brothers and sisters in Christ at Philippi and wanted to know how they were doing. He wanted to visit them himself and hoped to do so in the future. But his present situation, being imprisoned, did not allow for that. So he was going to do the next best thing. He was sending Timothy, who had proven himself like a son working with his father in the important task of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

I remember a situation in my own life when someone, in fact, a group of someones expressed their concern for me. A first year student in seminary, I had been informed that my father had died. I returned home to be with Mom and to make funeral arrangements. On the day of the funeral, just a few hours before the service, three of my friends from seminary arrived at our family's home in Chesapeake. They had left school and driven four hours to express their love and condolences to me and my mother. To know that someone cared that much about me and what we were facing, left an indelible impression upon my heart and mind. I can still remember the surprise and gratitude that I felt on that day, seeing those three students getting out of their car to greet me on that morning so long ago. I found it hard to believe that they had driven all that way just to see me and to let me know that they cared about my loss. Have you ever experienced something like that? I hope so. That's what it means to experience joyful comradeship, being a part of a band of brothers who are there for you when you need them.

Here's the second thing that joyful comradeship accomplishes. It provides us with an opportunity to be truthful with one another. You don't have to hide your feelings or concerns when you are comrades in a common cause. You can express those thoughts and feelings honestly and openly. Epaphroditus had arrived from the church in Philippi with gifts for Paul, perhaps an offering that had been taken up for him and some warm clothes for the wintertime. Perhaps he had even decided to stay a while and assist Paul personally. Then things went south. He became ill. It may have been the stress of the journey or it could have been a disease he contracted at the prison where Paul was housed. In any case Paul did not sugar coat the situation. He clearly stated that Epaphroditus became seriously ill and almost died. Fortunately that didn't happen. He recovered and was now ready to return home. So Paul joyously declared, "Therefore I am all the more eager to send him so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety" (Philippians 2:28). Paul could have made light of the situation and said that his friend wasn't really very ill, or he could have not mentioned it at all, but he didn't. He told the Christians in Philippi precisely what had happened. Comradeship requires honesty, even when it hurts, even when people might take offense or be offended. I have always appreciated fellow co-workers who owned up to those times when they had made mistakes or were a part of a situation which had become difficult or maybe even disastrous.

Here's the third thing in this passage of Scripture that I want to share with you. Joyful comradeship provides us with an opportunity to commend and congratulate one another. Look at the last two verses in today's Scripture reading. Paul tells the Christians in Philippi, "Welcome him (Epaphroditus) in the Lord with great joy and honor men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me" (Philippians 2:29-30). Earlier in his letter he had referred to Epaphroditus as "my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier" (Philippians 2:25). Clearly Paul held him in high regard and wanted the folks back home to joyously celebrate his return from the brink of death. I am reminded of that last scene in the first 'Star Wars' movie. Luke Skywalker, Hans Solo and Chewbacca have destroyed the Death Star and sent Darth Vader spinning harmlessly off into outer space. Applause erupts from a host of fellow warriors as the trio make their way to the podium to be honored by Princess Leia. When Epaphroditus returned to Philippi, the celebration may have been a bit more subdued. Nevertheless, I know they were glad to see him and gave him a rousing welcome. That's something that we all need to do from time to time. We need to let our fellow Christians know that we appreciate them and that they are a very important part of lives.

The joy of comradeship, being a part of a band of brothers and sisters, can be summed up by one word which unfortunately does not always receive the respect it deserves. That word is "FELLOWSHIP." It means that we have a special relationship one with another because of our allegiance to Christ. So this morning after the service is over, be sure to stay for the covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall. It will be a time to celebrate that we are bound together in Christ, fellow soldiers in the army of God, who have now gathered together for a grand and joyous reunion.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Affirmation of Faith

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 shall 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.

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 to a dying world. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation

"Here is Bread"

Graham Kendrick

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 Hymn

"There is a Redeemer"

Hymn 117

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Voluntary"

Samuel Wesley

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor
of John Grubb's birthday by Linda Benton.

hau'oli la ho'omana'o!!!

Celebrating Bill & Deanna's

Ninth anniversary at BPC!!!

We are so blessed with their Music Ministry!!



Joys-September 3rd

Joy- Rev. Parker had a great trip and thanks everyone for their prayers

Joy- Blair- FH used as cooling center for those in need

Joy- Jan Easter- Bedford Christian Bible Study will start in Sept. at Bedrock

Concerns- September 3rd

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

Family of Bill May

Boone: Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz (brother-in-law) enlarged hand

Family of Tony Ware

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

Cynthia- car accident

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

Riley: Christine- fell, broken nose and bruising

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
Granddaughter- adjusting to daycare

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 <i>Deacons 3;30 pm</i>	15	16
17 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Bedford Hiking Club</i>
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 September 3rd

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
Communion
Aloha Sunday

Monday: Labor Day- office closed

Sunday: September 10th
10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
5¢ a Meal Offering

September Birthdays

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

September 23rd - Bedford Hiking Club greets autumn from the mountain top!

At 4,225' Apple Orchard Mountain is the highest point on the VA Appalachian Trail, but this easy, scenic, 2-mile loop with just two sets of stone stairs, has less than 300' of elevation gain. Along the path you will also find Old Man Oak, Guillotine Rock and the NORAD radar dome. The view from the top meadow is so nice, you might want to bring a snack and linger a while. For those who wish to carpool, we will leave from the Church at 10 A.M. Or, you can meet us at "Apple Orchard Overlook" parking – Parkway mile 76.5 – at 10:45, *but please let me know if you plan to do so.* (Rain date is Sept.30th). For more information contact John Salley @ 540-875-9940



Clerk's Corner

- Our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) completed training and is off and running. Keep them in prayer: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke (Chair) and Shawn Webb.
- Rev. Parker agreed to serve as our Interim Pastor! Session is working with the Presbytery to finalize his contract.
- Lots of work is needed in our church. Priorities are the roof, windows and hall ceiling. But, John Blair is organizing a Congregational work day, to tackle a lot of the smaller projects on the list. Stay tuned!
- The use of our Community Center as a warming shelter last winter was a huge success. Recently, we opened our Fellowship Hall as a cooling shelter for those in need. Two volunteers are always present.
- Our Church has supported Bedford Christian Ministries for many years. You can help by volunteering or bringing needed supplies (household, clothing, food pantry) to the drop box at the Church.
- Plan on being in service on October 8th to approve nominees from the 2023 Nominating Committee, chaired by Barbara Nichols. We will also elect members to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee, which will be chaired by Bill Yodis.
- Aren't the flowers in the Sanctuary such a beautiful part of our Worship service? There are still plenty of openings on our flower calendar. Flowers can be expensive, so perhaps partner with someone and share a date. Thank you Dianne Fain!
- Our Deacons provided home communion and/or visitation to 7 people during June/July. Flowers were delivered to several people. 11 cards were mailed to members and friends. Thank you Deacons!
- Are you a friendly person who likes making others feel welcomed? Please see Scarlett and Russell Stevens about being a greeter on Sunday mornings.
- Monthly income for July was \$13,285.00, which is above the forecasted amount of \$11,720.00.
- Are you interested in attending Grief Group? Please let Becky Noell know. We are working to identify groups that are available in nearby churches.
- With Rev. Salley's retirement, three couples have stepped up to be on call: Rev and Sherry Parker, Dave and Lori Stetson and John and Judy Blair.
- **Important Dates:** Sunday, October 8th - Called Congregational Meeting



Bedford Christian Ministries

For many years our church has supported Bedford Christian Ministries. In fact, some of our members are currently serving as volunteers, helping individuals and families who need assistance with food, clothing and household goods. Bedford Christian Ministries also provides limited assistance with rent and utility bills. Each individual or family meets with a counselor to determine how best to help. In recent months the number of people requesting assistance has grown substantially. In spite of the financial support that comes from churches like our own, as well as from other businesses and individuals, the funds needed to support this ministry are becoming greater than the available resources. So here are some ways that you can help.

Volunteers are always welcome, especially those who can meet with individuals and families seeking assistance. BCM also needs volunteers to unload the Food Truck on Thursdays.

Financial donations are greatly appreciated. Stop by BCM or send a check by mail to Bedford Christian Ministries, 217 West Washington Street, Bedford, VA 24523: listed below are some additional needs that you can provide. As always, thank you for your generosity. If you have a question, please call 540-586-2633. BCM is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 am to 12 noon.

Household Needs

Eating utensils (forks, spoons knives)

Pots and pans

Small appliances (coffee machine, toasters, irons, can openers, etc.)

Bath towel and wash cloths

Sheets in all sizes

Clothing Department

Baby wipes and diapers

Gently used children shoes

New women's and girls' underwear

School clothing (boys and girls- ages 6-18)

Food and Pantry

Sugar

Pop tarts

Cereal bars

Dish detergent

Clothes detergent

Small bottle of bleach