

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



## Week of September 17<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.

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**

“

**Words of Welcome**

**Minute for Missions**

Bedford Christian Ministries

Becky Noell

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: Praise God in the sanctuary.**

One: Praise God in the vault of heaven.

**All: Praise God in the earth and skies.**

One: Sing praises to the Lord.

**All: Shout and sing praises to God.**

One: We have witnessed God's mighty acts.

**All: We have seen the Lord's greatness.**

One: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

**All: Let everything that draws breath praise the Lord!**

**\*Hymn**

*“Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above”*

Hymn 46

**\* Prayer of Confession**

Loving Father, too often we look backward, rather than single-mindedly looking forward to the goal of our calling. We so easily become weighed down by past failure and mistakes, causing us to become weary. Help us to forget the past and press on toward the goal of our calling in Christ Jesus, trusting in Him to overcome every problem, disappointment and challenge we may face. May we always trust in our Savior, who has overcome the world. In Jesus' 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 3:12- 4:1

**Worship Medley**

*“Alpha and Omega”  
“Jesus, What a Beautiful Name”*

## **Sermon**

## A NUGGET OF JOYFUL PERSEVERANCE

It's that time of year when football reigns across the landscape of America, whether it's high school, college, or professional. Everyone is encouraged to choose a favorite team and cheer them on. It gets so crazy in fact, that it's hard to turn on the TV without bumping into a game, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. Looking over the passage of Scripture that we will be focusing on this morning, I couldn't help but be reminded of our fascination with this national pastime. In fact, the game of football is an excellent illustration for helping us to understand what Paul was saying to the Philippians and what he is saying to us today. So let's put on our helmets, don our jerseys and head out onto the field of play. For each of us, everyone who calls themselves a Christian, is a member of God's team, playing a decisive contest on the field of life each and every day.

Now here's some things you need to know before we get started. The Lord Jesus Christ is our coach. He knows how the game of life is played. He Himself was a player once upon a time and He is well aware that you can get hurt on the gridiron. In fact, it cost Him His life when those Roman soldiers nailed Him to a cross. But that didn't stop Him and now He has returned to coach His team known as the Christians, a team that is playing their hearts out all across the globe. There's something else I need to share with you. Each of us who identifies ourselves as a follower of Christ, each of us has signed up through our profession of faith and through our initiation called baptism, is a member of His team. It doesn't matter how old we are, whether we're male or female, or how gifted we are spiritually. We are on Team Christian. With that in mind, let's see what Paul has to say to us.

Here's the first thing. Speaking of himself, but really of all of us, Paul declares, "I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be" (Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Philippians 3:12). What is Paul saying to us? Just imagine for a moment that you have signed up to play on the high school football team. The coach looks you over and sees a group of players who have a lot to learn. But he also sees something else. He sees the potential of whom you can become. He sees that one of you will be a great quarterback, another skilled tight end and another a tremendous defensive tackle. He sees what you are now, an inexperienced and inept group of amateurs, but he also looks into the future and sees something else, what you can become, a really great team of talented players.

His job as a coach is to take what you are and transform you into what he knows you can become. That's what Paul is talking about. He knew he hadn't arrived yet. He's was still in training. But he was striving to become all that he knew Coach Jesus wanted him to be. The same is true for you and me. When we join the team, when we become Christians, the Lord Jesus Christ looks us over and evaluates our potential, how we might prove to be beneficial to the work of His Kingdom here on earth. Then He begins the process of training us. He instructs us through that inner voice, the Holy Spirit. Remember what Jesus told His disciples in the Gospel of John, "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:16). His personal instruction plus His playbook, the Scriptures, enables us to become proficient as Christians and to hopefully receive recognition and maybe even reward when the game of life is over here on earth and we step into heaven. On that day, best of all hear these words from our coach, Jesus Christ, "Well done, I'm proud of you" or as is recorded in Matthew 25:21, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master's happiness!"

Here's something else we can learn from what Paul said to the Philippians and what he is saying to us today. In football language, he's telling us that when disagreements arise, we need to listen to the coach and pay attention to what the more experienced players on the team have to say. In his own

words, Paul tells the Philippians, "If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you." Then he goes on to say, "Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example" (New Living Translation, Philippians 3:15 and 17). That's good advice on the playing field and in the church. God's Spirit is able to guide and direct us, especially when we listen to those Christians who are spiritually mature, those Christians who have been walking with the Lord for a long time. Let me share with you an example from another church many years ago. The leaders of the church, in this case the Board of Deacons, a group similar to our Session, was in the midst of a heated discussion. Some were saying one thing and others something else. Finally, the leader of the Deacon's brought the discussion to an end. He said, "Ok men, we're obviously of not one mind and heart. We need to go home, seek a word from the Lord in the Scriptures and really pray about this. Then we'll meet together next week and see if we can come to an agreement." The Deacons listened to his wise counsel and did as he instructed. When they met the following week, they were of one mind regarding the situation which had created so much dissension. Personally, I've seen this approach to problem solving work over and over again in the life of a local church.

Finally, here's one final thing that Paul had to say and it comes as a warning. He writes, "For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ" (New Living Translation, Philippians 3:18). What were these people doing to bring forth such words of condemnation from Paul? They were claiming to be Christians, but living morally scandalous lives. It's an old problem that has eaten away at the heart of the Church almost from the beginning when our faith is not reflected in how we live out our lives. Let me share one brief example. A very large and growing church in Hampton Roads went bankrupt, their property sold for failure to pay the mortgage. Why? The moral misconduct of their pastor and the failure of the congregation to deal with the situation in a Christ honoring way. Sadly, those kinds of things have happened all too often and that's why Paul stressed that our conduct as Christians must reflect the Christian way of life, not the values and practices of the worldly and often pagan society in which we live.

Thankfully, Paul closes out chapter three by reminding us that we are citizens of heaven who are looking forward to Christ's return. When that happens He will be in charge and everything will be transformed, including you and me. We will be able to trade in our old mortal bodies for glorious ones like His own. For many of us who daily face the restraints of limbs that don't work as well as they use to and ailments that restrict and keep us from enjoying our lives that will be a welcome relief. But what should we do until that day comes or until we are gathered unto the Lord at the end of our lives? The answer is simple. Perseverance! Never quitting, always striving to do and be our best, even when we're tired and weary—serving the Lord faithfully each and every day, never allowing a difference of opinion to divide us and never, never giving into the waywardness of the world.

One such Christian was a woman by the name of Eva Graham. She lived in a dilapidated house with a kitchen that was in the process of separating itself from the rest of her home. She also lived on one of the worst and most crime ridden streets in her community, Nevertheless, she opened her home to a Bible study that met every Tuesday morning and she was constantly encouraging her neighbors to come with her to church on Sundays. Finally, her son and daughter-in-law drove up from Florida and said, "Mom it's time for you to come and live with us." We knew that was the right decision for she was well up in years, but we also knew that we would miss her gentle, persistent reliance upon the Lord. On the last Sunday before her departure, she arrived at church with a little girl from the community, bringing her to Sunday school. Perseverance in the service of Christ. She knew the meaning of the word.

But how about joyful perseverance? Can you be joyful even when being perseverant is truly difficult and wearisome? Since I started with a football illustration, let me close with one. My friend in the

ministry, Charles Page, was once a football coach. One day after practice he added something extra. He told the boys, "See that steep hill over there. We're going to climb it." You should have heard the grumbling and complaints. But when he set the example by leading the way, there was little else they could do but follow after him. Week after week they climbed that hill, the coach encouraging them to climb it faster and faster. Now it was the last game of the season and their team was behind. It had been a hard fought contest and they needed a touch down to win the game. They were on the five yard line of their opponent with just seconds remaining before the game would be over. Charles called a time out and gathered his team around him. He said, "Remember the hill. You've got to climb it just one more time. Go out there and do your best." The ball was snapped and here is what happened. Charles' team not only pushed the football into the end zone, they pushed it and the other team all the way to the back of the end zone. Not only is that perseverance, but on that night during the celebration that followed, it was joyful perseverance. I think that is what Paul was talking about when he concluded this part of his letter with these words, "Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends" (Philippians 4:1). Or as James so eloquently stated in his letter to fellow Christians, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12). So put on your football jersey, strap on your cleats, grab your helmet and let's go out and win one for the Lord.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

### ***Worship Song***

*"Press On"*

Getty

### ***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)

In our songs and in our words, we give praise to You, Lord. In our worship, study and service, we bless You. Loving God, You breathe life into our mortal bodies. You complete us and fill our every need. For all that You have done; for all that You have given to us, we worship You. Beautiful Savior, with all that we are and with all that we have, we offer You our thanks and praise. 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***

*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* Hymn 414

## THE SENDING FORTH

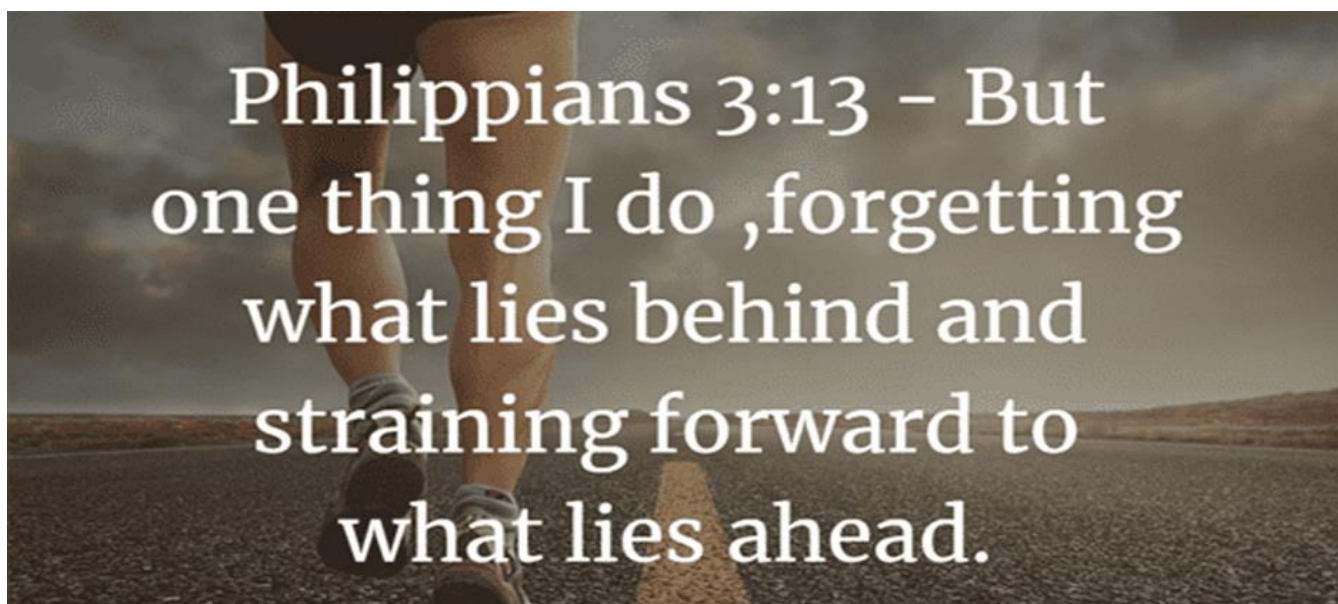
*Benediction*

Postlude

“Cwm Rhondda”

Wilbur Held

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
Memory of Rev. Frank Avery, by the Avery Family.**



### Joys-September 17<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** seeing so many old friends at Rev. Avery's memorial

**Joy-** thanks to John Blair for getting ceiling repaired

**Joy-** Linda Benton- friend's first granddaughter

### Concerns- September 17<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Teresa Stanley's mother-car accident, in hospital

**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

**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

**Gould:** Jay- allergic to medication

**Harris:** Jim- knee replacement trying to find rehab

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn-Kibbey:** Phyllis Smith (friend) - heart attack

**Lambert:** Cindy (friend) going through physical therapy

**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) slow recovery

Messier- family health problems

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

**Nichols:** for family who doesn't know the Lord

**Parkers:** friends surgery and full recovery

**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) 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

Those impacted by fires in Hawaii

Berry family- memory issues

**Van Dyke:** 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**

**People Impacted by Morocco earthquake**



## September 2023

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Activities for week of September 17<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Wednesday: Something More, 3 pm

Sunday: September 24<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

### September Birthdays

Dick Kibbey 17

Christine Riley 18

Harold Neal 19

Barbara Saunders 20

Dick Diddams 21

Ron Morris 24

Jay Barnes 29

### September Anniversaries

Gerald & Tammy DeWitt 19

**The Bedford Hiking Club September 23rd Hike has been cancelled and will reschedule for late October. More information will follow.**



**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

## **Bedford Christian Ministries**

### **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



### **Roanoke POPS**

We are taking reservations for this year's Christmas Roanoke POPS Concert. It will be on Friday, December 1st at 7:30 pm at the Salem Civic Center.

Each ticket will be \$52. Do not send any payment at this time.

Call Judy Blair to reserve your seat 540-587-9416.