

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

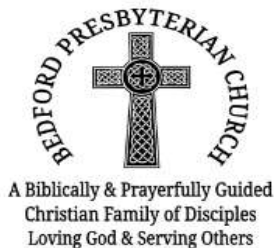


Week of February 25th

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.



*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

"Nothing but the Blood"

Gina Sprunger

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: With my mouth I will greatly extol the Lord: in the great throng of worshipers I will praise Him.

All: For He stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.

One: The Lord be exalted, who delights in the well-being of His servant.

All: My tongue will proclaim Your righteousness, Your praises all day long.

Hymn

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Hymn 96

***Prayer of Confession:**

Oh, most holy God, we confess today how difficult it is to tame our tongues. We lay before You...words that we wish we could unspeak, silence kept when it would have been better to speak, our double speak and inconsistency, all the talk behind backs, all the chatter that tears down, every confidence broken, every wound that words have inflicted. We pray that You would bridle our tongues...help us to think before we speak, guide us to use our words to build up rather than to tear down, help our tongues to lead us to maturity in faithfulness.

***Assurance of Pardon** (*responsive*)

One: Friends, believe in 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"

Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

James 3: 1-12

Hymn

"You're Worthy of My Praise"

Hymn 648

Calvin Coolidge was the 30th President of the United States. He became president following Warren Harding's death in 1923 and was elected to his own term in 1924. He was a man of few words. Even at official dinners which he was compelled to attend, President Coolidge usually had nothing to say. When asked during one of these occasions as to why he was so silent, he replied, "Got to eat somewhere." His reluctance to speak in public was so well-known that on one occasion a vivacious socialite sought his assistance. She had made a bet that she could get him to speak more than two words. He replied, "You lose." I suspect that Calvin Coolidge would have felt right at home with the Scripture that was read a few moments ago.

I am also confident that James would have wholeheartedly agreed with Calvin Coolidge's reluctance to speak. In fact, he begins the third chapter of his letter by warning that those who are authority in the church, like teachers, should realize that they will be judged more strictly regarding what they say. In fact, as he continues to write, James doesn't have many positive things to say about speech, especially as it relates to the tongue. Let's take a look at what he said and see if there are some things that could prove to be beneficial for you and me this morning. According to Biblical scholars, this passage of Scripture can be broken down into two parts, verses one through four and verses five through twelve. The first part is called "**the power of the tongue.**" The second part is best described as the "**perversity of the tongue.**" Let's take a look at each of them.

No one should ever doubt that the tongue is powerful. James uses two vivid illustrations to drive home his point. He says that the tongue is like a bridle on a horse and a rudder on a ship. As we discovered earlier, a bridle is a fairly small part of a rider's gear. Nevertheless, it is quite important. If you want to control a horse, you need a bridle. Take it from me I learned that a long time ago when I got on a great big gray horse. He turned his head around and looked at me and I looked at him. We both read each other's minds. He said, "I'm going to buck you off," and I said, "Horse, oh no you're not." As soon as we were led into the middle of a great big field, the horse headed off towards a great big tree. I knew what he had in mind and made full use of that bridle. When the ride was over, I was glad to get off and the horse was probably glad to not have me yanking on his bridle. Likewise, a rudder, even though it is a relatively small part of a ship, does indeed determine the direction in which it goes. In the days before engines, a sailboat without a rudder was a vessel in deep distress, especially if it was being blown towards a shoreline.

In the same way our tongues exercise a power and authority much greater than their size within the human anatomy. An example from the past illustrates this point dramatically. Adolf Hitler used his tongue to deceive an entire nation and led them down the pathway to war. Even more startling, schools in Germany following World War II tried to educate children as to what had taken place in the past by showing films of some of Hitler's speeches. The children were so mesmerized, listening with such rapt attention and admiration, that they quickly abandoned this approach to teaching the history of the nation. Like the reins of a horse or the rudder of a ship, the tongue of this long dead dictator still possessed immense power to direct the lives of young people, just as he had directed the life of an entire nation years before. We should never forget that the tongue, human speech, possesses tremendous power, especially when it is used for evil purposes. Proverbs 25:18 states, "Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbor."

This, of course, leads us to the second major theme in this passage of Scripture, the perversity of the tongue. Now "perversity" is a word that we don't hear very often, but the meaning of this word perfectly fits what James says about the tongue. This is what the word means—"deviating from what is considered right or acceptable, persisting in error or fault, stubbornly contrary." In verses five through twelve James presents three ways in which it is perverse. First, he says that the tongue is like a little flame that grows

into a destructive and dangerous wildfire. As such it can become as evil as a raging holocaust that destroys everything in its path. Wicked tongues can do that very thing, spreading vile rumors which ruin a person's character and reputation. I suspect most of us have encountered a situation where someone's life was ruined by what others said about them. Psalm 34:13 declares, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies."

James says that the tongue is perverse in another way. It does not like to be controlled. He reminds us that all kinds of animals can be tamed, including birds and reptiles and even creatures in the sea. A trip to Ocean World in Florida where dolphins perform for the tourists demonstrates this obvious truth. But the tongue, James says, is obstinate and disobedient. It is evil and filled with deadly poison. That seems a bit over the top until we remember an occasion when an ugly, hateful word slipped out of our mouths and we wonder, "Where did that come from? Did I utter those vile words?" It's almost as if our tongues are directed by some unseen force over which we have no control.

Finally, James says that our tongues are perverse because they are so fickle. One moment they are praising God and the next moment we are cursing someone who is made in His likeness. James asks, "How can fresh and salt water come from the same spring and do fig trees bear olives?" Of course not. Yet that seems to be the way of our tongues. Let me share a personal example. You may not know this, but I have a temper and on more than one occasion it has gotten the best of me. My words were not like fresh, clean spring water, but pretty salty. I should have known better. In fact, I knew this passage of Scripture. Nevertheless, my tongue took me to places where I should not have gone and the same thing can happen to any of us.

Yes, our tongues can become a world of evil. Our entire nation had an opportunity to see what can happen when people start arguing with one another. A victory celebration in Kansas City two Wednesdays ago was turned into a horrific tragedy. Two young men let angry comments and words take charge of their lives. Guns were drawn and over twenty people were shot, one of them fatally. We've all heard the childhood saying, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me." In this case and in so many others just like it, words did, indeed, break bones and destroy lives. So, in light of what James has told us about our tongues, "What should we do?" Here are some things to consider.

Consider the source from which the words on our tongues emerge. On one occasion Jesus said something that sounds very familiar to what James says in his letter, "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). In other words, our speech is a reflection of what's going on inside of us. Before we speak, we'd best take a look on the inside of our own hearts to see what's lurking there.

Here's something else we should consider. Paul reminded the Christians in Ephesus, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29). Our words, therefore, should be helpful, not hurtful. The world is full of verbal negativity. Let's be positive when we speak to one another.

Finally, one last thought. Proverbs 17:28 declares, "Even a fool is thought to be wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue." Or as Abraham Lincoln once famously stated, "Better to remain silent and thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Let the Words of My Mouth"

Ortega

Affirmation of Faith

WE BELIEVE that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

WE BELIEVE that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that His grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

WE BELIEVE in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

WE BELIEVE that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

WE BELIEVE that our journey has a purpose and a destination and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

WE BELIEVE that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ our Lord. AMEN

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time we could spend in your presence today. Help us remember that you have given us more than we could have ever asked for or even imagined. Help us to continually turn our eyes to you in worship and adoration. For you are the Alpha and the Omega, king overall. We thank you for all you bless us with, the family and friends you surround us with. We thank you for the freedom we find in you. In your name, we pray, 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***

“Lord, Speak to Me”

Hymn 593

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

“Lenten Postlude”

Matthew Koch

A Special Thank You

Dot Kuhn-Kibbey would like to thank everyone for their prayers and to those who have sent cards, brought meals and called during her recovery. She is so blessed to have such a thoughtful, loving and special church family. May God Bless You All.

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	5	6	7 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	8	9	10
11 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	12	13	14 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>10 am Worship</i>	19	20	21 <i>Deacon's 1:30 pm Something More, 3pm</i>	22 <i>Cancer Group</i>	23	25
25 <i>10 am Worship</i>	26	27	28 <i>Something More, 3pm</i> <i>Lenten Lunch 12 pm MSUMC</i>	29		

Joys- February 25th

Joy- Sally Cram, son's surgery went well, prayers it works

Joy- Sally also said friend in CO thanks church for prayers

Joy- Foster's will celebrate 54th anniversary

Concerns- February 25th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) colon cancer

Mark- (nephew) open heart surgery, caregiver of special needs adult

Benton: Tracey Thomas (daughter's friend) more surgery

Debbie (friend) passing of husband

Blair: Ecumenical youth group

Harvey Clarke- passing of Weebie

Boone: Christy, thyroid surgery in May

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Donnie (husband) upcoming back surgery MRI

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Vicky-(friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

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

Garrett Winslow

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham- (friend) health issues, wife caretaker

Brenda Wilkerson- UVA- seizures

Ben Thomas (son) surgery, having cochlear implant

DeHart: Dawn's mother gall bladder surgery

Michael Rutter- septic shock, amputation

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Fleming: Dominick (Ann Marie's brother) heart surgery successful

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home

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

Tom- home, referred to specialist

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goode: prayers for Eunice, health issues

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

Cynthia- (friend) physical therapy

Those held hostage in Gaza

Larry (brother-in-law) heart attack

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn- Kibbey: Phyllis Smith (friend) heart attack
Dot- fell broken ribs, vertebrae, long recovery

Lambert: Margaret caring for brother, strokes, doing better

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

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Kyle Coble- (cousin) leukemia
Rev. Pam Ledbetter
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung
John Hargett (friend) slow recovery may never walk
Ron- pacemaker, at home
Ann Ortega- tumor near pancreas

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Riley: Christine, stroke

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
Scott- (son-in-law) doing well

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer
Sonny (son) doing well

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) that she comes to the Lord

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, going home
Deputy Chief Matt Scott, spot on kidney

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Two firefighters who suffered falls

Van Dyke: continued prayers for Dot and Dick Kibbey

Webb: Shawn caretaker to aunt and grandma

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons.

Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us

Prayers for Ukraine

Pray for World Peace

Prayers for Israel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of February 25th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
 Potluck Luncheon

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Sunday: March 3rd
 10 am Worship
 Communion

February Birthdays

Janis Easter - 26
 Richard Overstreet -27
 Karen Overstreet -28

Forty Days of Love

**Join us on Wednesday beginning February 14th at 12pm at
 Main Street United Methodist Church for Lenten Lunches.**

Lunch is provided by area churches for a \$5 donation with a time of Music, prayer
 and a message from a local pastor.

BPC will be hosting on February 28th with Rev. Parker bringing the message, Bill Rutledge
 providing the music and David Grigg will be preparing the meal. If you would to volunteer to help
 with the preparation of the meal, please contact David Grigg.

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Montreat Donations and Service Projects

We are blessed this year to have six youth who will be attending this year's Montreat Youth Conference. This year's theme is "Planting Peace"...how timely! Last year we were able to raise the funds needed to help with the cost of the conference with donations as well as service projects. We are asking for your help again. If you would like to just donate to this wonderful experience for these young people, you can write out a check to Bedford Presbyterian Church that has Montreat Youth Conference written in the memo. If you have some yard work that needs to be done or some other project that you think these young folks can help you with, please get in touch with John and Judy Blair so they can schedule that with you. Thank you for the blessing of giving these youth a wonderful life changing experience.

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Thank you for your generous support of our church

BPC Financial Snapshot						
General Operations Contribution Income				General Operations Expense		
	Forecast	Actual	YTD Ahead/(Behind)	Expense Forecast	Actual Expenses	YTD (Over)/Under Spent
Jan 2024	\$15,960.00	\$ 15,563.64	\$ (396.36)	\$17,034.05	\$13,260.87	\$ 3,773.18