

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

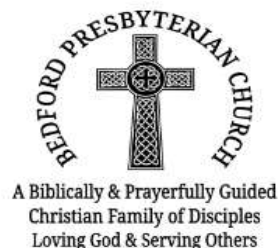


Week of May 12th

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

"It Is Well"

Faye Lopez

Words of Welcome

Minute for Missions

Patrick Henry Family Services

Jacob Vanderbleek

Call to Worship

One: I will praise the Lord at all times.

All: I will constantly speak His praises.

One: I will boast only in the Lord;

All: Let all who are helpless take heart.

One: Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness;

All: Let us exalt His name together.

Hymn

"To God Be the Glory"

Hymn 66

***Prayer of Confession:**

Proverbs 31 says that a wife of noble character is worth far more than rubies. Her children arise and call her blessed and her husband praises her. She is to be honored and praised for all she has done.

Lord, many of us read these words and are inspired, encouraged, and grateful. But some of us are tempted to doubt that Your grace could ever produce these kinds of virtues in our lives.

Some of us are tempted by resentment and unforgiveness because of those who have let us down.

Some of us are tempted to condemn ourselves for past failings, and all of us remember times when we have fallen short.

Forgive us for doubt, resentment, unforgiving hearts, self-condemning attitudes. Remind us of Your forgiveness, always available in Jesus Christ. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus, so that our lives may bring Joy to Your world and Praise to Your Name.

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

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"

Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Duet

"Mamas"

Ella & Maggie

Sermon

A Godly Mother

Years ago I took my wife, the mother of our rambunctious three year old daughter, out for dinner on Mother's Day. The restaurant was crowded and knowing the owner I asked, "Why such a crowd. There's usually not so many customers?" He replied, "Didn't you know that Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for restaurants all across America. Everybody wants to take their mother out for dinner on Mother's Day." He was right. Mother's Day, along with cards and candy, is a celebration honored throughout America. But why? How did this celebration of motherhood begin?

It's origin can be traced all the way back to 1907 at the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. It was organized by Anna Jarvis. Her own mother had been a champion in the community organizing "Mother's Day Work Clubs," where women learned about hygiene and sanitation, including such things as boiling drinking water. Infant and childhood mortality were rampant in that part of West Virginia. Anna's mother had done everything she could to combat this ongoing medical crisis, including delivering medicine and health supplies to families in need. Now, several years after her mother's death, Anna wanted to do something to celebrate the work done by all mothers who improve the lives of others. Of course, she was also thinking of her own mother. That's why Mother's Day has the apostrophe before and not after the "s." Or as Anna stated in her motto for this holiday, "**For the Best Mother Who ever Lived—Your Mother.**"

Celebrated on the second Sunday in May, the closest Sunday to the date of her mother's death, this new holiday gained popularity very quickly. It was adopted by West Virginia as a holiday in 1910 and proclaimed as a national holiday to honor mothers by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914. Not only in America, but in at least 40 countries worldwide. Mother's Day is an opportunity for all of us to honor our mothers. It's also an opportunity to remember and even celebrate what the Bible has to say about mothers, especially that marvelous passage of Scripture in the book of Proverbs that was read a few moments ago. Referred to in many translations as an ode to a wife of noble character, it is really a poetic expression declaring the virtues of a **godly mother**.

So let's take a few moments this morning to discover what the writer of these last verses in the book of Proverbs had to say about mothers, especially those character traits which make her such an admirable woman. Here's the first one. **A godly mother is a skillful homemaker.** The writer of Proverbs declares in verses 13-15, "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark and provides food for her family." Then in verse 27 he adds, "She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." Reflecting upon these verses, especially verse 13, I am reminded of my own mother darning the heels of my father's work socks so that he could get some additional wear out of them. Dad went to work each day and sometimes took on extra work on the weekends. Mom was in charge of the household and she was a skillful homemaker. I imagine you have some similar memories.

Here's a second character trait described in this passage of Scripture. **A godly mother is industrious.** She knows how to work hard and how to make a profit. Listen again to verses 16-18, "She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night." Having gotten to know our church family while serving as our interim pastor, I am aware that many of the mothers in this congregation had profitable careers outside of the home. They managed businesses and worked for corporations right here in Bedford. They did not eat the bread of idleness.

That brings us to the third character trait. **A godly mother is generous.** She cares for the needs of her children and the community. In verses 20-21 the writer of Proverbs states, "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet." Have you ever visited one of the charitable organizations in Bedford, like Bedford Christian Ministries, the Pregnancy Center, or the Christmas Station? You will be greeted by a number of mothers who have raised their own children and are now helping to raise some children who are not their own.

Moving on lets identify a fourth character trait. **A godly mother is clothed in strength and dignity.** In fact, these are the very words of the first part of verse 16. They are a reflection of an earlier statement which declares that her husband is respected among the leaders of the community because of the outstanding character strengths of his wife. Here is where this sermon becomes a little more personal in nature. My wife Sherry, the mother of our two children, has always carried herself in such a way that I rejoice to have her at my side. She is the kind of person who instills the kind of hope and grace and inner strength and poise that we so desperately need in our world today.

A godly mother is also a purveyor of wisdom. Verse 26 says, "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." Susanna Wesley was just such a woman. The wife of an English clergyman she was the mother of nineteen children. Not only did she successfully rear that huge brood of children, but she was their teacher as well. She instructed them in all of their studies including Greek and Latin and sent several of them off to university when they became young men. Additionally she conducted a Sunday afternoon Bible study in her home that attracted hundreds of parishioners. One of her children, a little boy named John, came running into her arms after almost being consumed in a fire that destroyed their home. She took him in her arms and said, "You're my little brand plucked from the burning." He grew up to become John Wesley, the great eighteenth century evangelist of England and the founder of the Methodist movement and later denomination.

A sixth character trait has to do with the respect bestowed by those who know a mother better than anyone else, her family. **A godly mother is revered by her husband and children.**

The writer of Proverbs declares in verse 28, "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Why, because a godly mother instills a sense of profound respect within the lives of her children. In one of the churches where I have served there was a godly mother who attended every Sunday. Unfortunately she had a son who rarely if ever came to church. One Mother's Day I looked out over the congregation and there was the mother and son sitting beside one another. After the service I spoke to them. The son said, "Pastor I don't go to church very often and I regret that. But I couldn't let Mother's Day go by without coming and letting her know how much I love and respect her."

Then there's that seventh character trait of a godly mother, the last one and the most important one. **A godly mother loves the Lord.** There have been many godly mothers down through the ages, but this morning I want to mention one who steps out of the pages of the Bible. Her name was Hannah. Unable to conceive, she was the object of ridicule because she had not given birth to any children. So one year during the annual religious festivities at Shiloh, she went into the temple and poured out her heart unto the Lord. She was praying so earnestly that at first, the High Priest Eli thought she was inebriated. But she told him, "I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." Instead of scolding her he blessed her saying, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of Him." What she had asked for God gave to her, a son named Samuel. Three years after his birth, she brought her son to Shiloh and presented him to the elderly Eli saying, "I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted me what I asked of Him. So now I give him to the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:1-28). Hannah fulfilled her promise to the Lord, the promise that she had made when he was born, that the child would be dedicated to God. That little

boy, Samuel, grew up to be the last and greatest of all of Israel's judges, because his mother was a godly woman who loved the Lord.

On this Mother's Day and indeed on every Mother's Day, may we pause to give thanks unto the Lord for mothers and especially for godly mothers. May God richly bless them.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"You Are the God Who Sees"

Holland Davis

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, thank You for all the blessings of Your mercy and love that You constantly shower upon us. Today, we celebrate the loving sacrifice of mothers, both biological and spiritual, who nurture and guide us in Your ways. Bless them with joy, strength, and encouragement to continue their selfless devotion. May they feel deeply appreciated and honored not just today, but every day. 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**

"Our Father God in Heaven"

Dudley Smith

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Thank You, Dear Lord"

J.C. Bach

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory
of Inez & Bob Lowry, by daughter and son-in-law,
Judy & Joe Strickland.

May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	2	3	4 <i>Men's Breakfast</i>
5 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	6	7	8 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	13	14	15 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>10 am Worship</i>	20	21	22 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	23	24	25
26 <i>10 am Worship</i>	27	28	29 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	30	31	

Joys- May 12th

Joy- what a blessing he Men's Breakfast was

Joy- James Fleming- his friend Mary Zulpak just turned 103

Concerns-May 12th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Eunice- fell broke wrist

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

Blair: Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Daughter- unemployed

Rosalind Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

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

David- came through surgery

Joe- (friend) successful surgery, long recovery

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

Garrett Winslow – struggling, autism

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham- (friend) health issues, wife caretaker

Brenda Wilkerson- UVA- seizures

friend in CO, second surgery

DeHart: Dawn's mother gall bladder surgery

Michael Rutter- septic shock, amputation

DeWitt: assistants husband broke leg using roto tiller

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

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

Carmen Trombecky- Afib

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

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

Tom

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Ellen possible kidney transplant

Donna- (friend) husband in hospital, surgery went well

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

Cousin- advanced cancer, hospice care

Goodman: for those impacted by Midwest storms

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

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) intense headaches

Gayle- doing better

McManis: Charlotte- VA Baptist, acute rehab, E119

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Rev. Pam Ledbetter

James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung

Monk: Libby's mother, Mary Duncan stroke, Oakwood

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Riley: Christine, stroke, Elks Home

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: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, back home

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Two firefighters who suffered falls

Deputy Chief Matt Scott spot on kidney

Russell- recovering from surgery

Van Dyke: continued prayers for Dot and Dick Kibbey

Weeks: Edith- home, continued healing

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 May 12th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Happy Mother's Day
5¢ a Meal Offering
BCM collection/donation
Wednesday: 3 pm Something More
Thursday: 10:30 am Choir Practice
Sunday: May 19th
10 am Worship

May Birthdays

Tammy DeWitt - 18
Belvia Tate - 22
Terry Gotard- 24
Venus Gould -28

May Anniversaries

John and Judy Blair- 13

Something More

We will be broadening our areas of interest when we meet on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. In addition to reviewing the past Sunday's sermon, we will begin taking a look at two additional topics—how to share your faith with another person and the history of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples. Special materials will be presented.

A Special Passage of Scripture

James 5:13-18 is a special passage of Scripture. It tells us three things that James wanted the early church to become. He wanted it to become a singing church, a healing church and a praying church. As we conclude our study of the book of James, we're going to devote three sermons to what it means for God's people today to be a part of a church that sings, heals and prays to the glory and honor of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is time once again for our annual

Black Rock Overlook Rhododendron hike!

The Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron up on Apple Orchard Mountain should soon be in full bloom. So let's take a hike along one of the most beautiful/floral sections of the Appalachian Trail. The walk is approximately a 3 mile roundtrip, with just a little climbing – but it brings you past the Cornelius Creek AT Trail Shelter, across two mountain creeks, through massive blooming Rhododendron thickets to a beautiful scenic overlook available only to hikers. This is also a good trail for dog walking.



Bring along a snack and a water bottle and **we will carpool from the Church parking lot at 9a.m. on Saturday, May 25th**. Or, those who know their way can meet us up at the trailhead around 9:30 (*but please let me know if you plan on meeting us up there*) We should be back to the Church around 1p.m.

If raining, we will try again on June 8th.



The first wave of AT thru-hikers from Georgia are now coming up the trail. So you might also want to bring along some "trail magic" -- a special snack treat -- to share with these long walkers.

If you want to take this walk by yourself on another date, just drop me an email and I will reply back with detailed instructions for the hike. See you on the trail! John Salley: 540-875-9940
jtsalley@gmail.com