

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



Week of September 1st

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

“Wonderful Peace”

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock, who turns the parched earth into springs of water, who sends the rain from heaven and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

All: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams, so we thirst for You, O God.

One: Come, let's worship our life-giving God, who pours out living water on all who thirst.

All: We worship God and praise Him for His grace and goodness

Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Hymn 68

***Prayer of Confession:**

God of mercy, hear the prayers of Your thirsting people. Forgive us for every time we have attributed Your miracles in our lives to our own hands. Have mercy on us for all the times we promised to trust You, but turned to our own way when Your response did not come soon enough or in the way we expected. For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness that we have refused, show us what it means to love.

Forgive us for all the ways we put our own understandings above Your wisdom. For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence and our indifference to the suffering round us, Forgive us, Loving One and quench our thirst with Your grace; Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion. For Christ's sake we pray. Amen.

***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

Revelation 3: 20

Praise Song

“He Is Good”

Hernandez/Nelson

Sermon

A Knock at the Door

Have you ever had an unexpected knock at the front door of your home? Perhaps it was a delivery man from UPS, a friend stopping by to say hello, or a repairman showing up to fix one of your kitchen appliances. But what if that “knock, knock, knock” on your door came from an even more unexpected source? What if Jesus, Himself, was knocking at the front door of your home? Would you invite Him in or would you just stand there with your mouth open in total surprise?

Well it wasn't exactly Jesus knocking at the front door of his church, but years ago Jim Henry, the pastor of a mega church in Orlando, Florida shared this personal account during a seminar I attended. One Sunday morning while Jim was sitting in the pulpit area of the sanctuary, a young man walked into the back of the church. He was a rather hippy looking young man with long, brown hair dressed in blue jeans and a tee shirt. Jim was surprised when none of the ushers greeted the young man. Couldn't they see him? The young man then proceeded to walk down one of the side aisles. Once again Jim was surprised that no one seemed to sense his presence, including several of his staff members seated nearby. Walking towards the front of the sanctuary, the young man would stop occasionally and look around as if he were observing and evaluating this congregational setting. Arriving at the pulpit he approached Jim and said, “Just stopping by to see how things are going.” Turning to leave he added, “It's going to be a really cold winter,” and then he was gone. Jim didn't know what to make of this strange encounter until later that winter during a prolonged cold snap that pushed temperatures way below what is normal for that time of year in Florida. Remembering that departing comment, Jim couldn't help but ask himself, “Who was that hippy looking visitor last fall? Could it have been? No way! Yet who knows? Maybe He was checking us out.”

What if Jesus came knocking at the door of our church? Would He be pleased? I hope so, but what if He came knocking at the door of your heart? Would you open that door and let Him in. During these past four weeks we have been talking about God's plan of salvation. It goes something like this. God loves us but sin has separated us from Him. That's why Christ came as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. When in repentance and faith we place our lives in His care we can experience God's deliverance. The only thing that remains is to invite Him to enter our lives and become our Savior. That's precisely what the risen Christ told the church in Laodicea in the book of Revelation, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Now to be straight forwardly honest, Christ was addressing an entire congregation of believers who had become lukewarm Christians. They were in danger of being spit out of His presence. They needed to repent of their halfhearted commitment.

Nevertheless, this verse of Scripture has a personal application which can be summarized by two powerful word pictures. The first word picture is a shared meal. It represents the kind of warm hearted companionship that is exemplified when people sit down to enjoy a dinner together. Throughout the pages of the Bible this idea of a shared meal describes the kind of relationship which we can enjoy with God. Going all the way back to the days of Moses, he and the leaders of Israel ate a meal in the presence of the God on Mount Sinai. It occurred after the people of Israel had entered into a covenantal ceremony with the Lord at the foot of the mountain (Exodus 24:1-11). It signified the new relationship that had been initiated between the people of Israel and their God. Moving to the New Testament, on the last night of Jesus' life He and the disciples ate a Passover meal together. Not only did it celebrate the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but the beginning of a new relationship with God through His sacrificial death. After blessing a cup of wine, Jesus said to them, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:20). Finally, in the book of Revelation, Christ's followers are invited to the wedding feast of the lamb (Revelation 19:9). Christ is the bridegroom and the Church, all of Christ's followers down through the ages, are the bride. Over and over again, the shared meal is a description of

the intimate and personal relationship which we can have with Christ. Jesus invites us to sit down with Him for a supper of warm hearted companionship.

The second word picture precedes that of the shared meal with Christ. It can best be described as a knock at the door. In Revelation 3:20, Christ says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock." Jesus is standing on the outside of the door of our lives. He's knocking because He wants to get our attention. He's knocking because He wants us to open that door and invite Him in. Some hear the knock and Christ's acknowledgement of His presence and immediately open the door of their lives. Some people are more reluctant. They've heard the knock and the sound of Jesus' voice, but they're not so sure that they're ready to welcome Him. The lives of others are so filled with the noise of this world that they can't even hear the sound of the one who is knocking and patiently waiting to gain entrance. Finally and most regretfully, there are those who have no intention of responding, no matter how long Jesus knocks, even if the knocking persists for a lifetime. In any and all of these possible responses, there is one thing that remains constant. Jesus will not force His way in. He will not force us to accept Him into our lives. It's our choice. We must be the one who opens the door of our lives.

Beginning with William Holman Hunt's inspired painting of this passage of Scripture in 1854, many artists have been inspired by this passage of Scripture in the book of Revelation. One of the most famous renderings was painted by Warner Sallman. Named *Christ at Heart's Door*, it was completed in 1942. Considered to be one of Sallman's finest works, it remains popular to this day. In this painting Christ is standing in front of a doorway, the luminescence of His presence casting a heart shaped reflection around Him. Beside the doorway are thistles representing sin, darkness and stubborn willfulness. A small window high up on the door indicates that the person on the inside can see who is knocking. Only one thing is missing, a handle on the outside of the door. Asked why the handle is missing, the answer is always, "This door can only be opened from the inside."

The same is true for all of us. The doorway to our hearts can only be opened from the inside. When Christ knocks on the door of our hearts, we are the only ones who can open that door and let him in.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn	<i>"The Table"</i>	Chris Tomblin
Communion	<i>"Communion Meditations"</i> <i>"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"</i>	Instrumental
Doxology	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and Merciful Savior, we are so glad that when You knocked on our hearts door, we were willing to open up and let You in. Despite our shortcomings and failures, You have shown us undeserved kindness and forgiveness. Thank You for extending Your grace and mercy to us each and every day. Receive these tithes and offerings and the love and gratitude in which they are given. 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**

"Pass It On"

Hymn 557

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Glory to God, We Give You Thanks"

J. Wayne Kerr

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

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	2 <i>Labor day Office closed</i>	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Men's Breakfast 9 am</i>
8 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Hein Vermaak 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	9	10	11 <i>Deacon's Meeting 1pm</i>	12	13	14
15 <i>10 am Worship</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>10 am Worship</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>10 am Worship</i>	30					

Joys- September 1st

Joy- Michelle Goode thanks for birthday wishes and safe travels

Joy- Van Dyke's shared son Jeff has new job

Concerns-September 1st

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillion-(nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry – leukemia treatment unsuccessful

Benton: Judy (friend) son in critical condition

Connie Thomas (friend) broke hip and arm in fall

Jill (friend) fell, broke her arm

Boone: Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery

Mark Luft (neighbor) fell, rehab, family issues

Blair: Philip Davis recovering melanoma surgery

Judy- back problems

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jennie & Seth (both friends) have health issues

Scott and Robin Umphlet, Scott is ill after a trip abroad.

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

DeHart: Lucile Kesterson (Dawn's mother) aging memory issues

Julian Kesterson (Dawn's stepdad) nursing home, multiple falls

DeWitt: assistants husband broke leg using roto tiller

Maggie- English teacher server liver problems

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Jim (bother) cancer

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

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

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

Tom- in hospital compression fracture

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Froberg: 10 week old great niece cranium, surgery

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

Shawn Webb- find caretaker for aunt

Lloyd (husband) back problems

Jackie Meador- shoulder replacement

Goodman: John Ramsey (nephew) open heart surgery

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Hann: Alice's brother, congestive heart failure, cancer

Harris: Jim- back pain

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- home

McManis; Charlotte doing better

Monk: Libby's mother, Mary Duncan, Bedford Nursing Home

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

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Overstreet: Family of Rebekah Overstreet on her passing

Riley: Christine stroke, Elks home

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii with health issues

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
Marcus Walker- (brother) laid off from job

Stetson: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, back in hospital

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Earl Carter- health issues
Todd Stone- arthritis and wife melanoma surgery

Van Dyke: Prayers to solve evil in country
Marilyn (92 yr old neighbor) fell, broke leg

Webb: looking for caretaker for aunt

Weeks: Edith, recovering from surgery

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 September 1st

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Communion

Monday: Labor Day- office closed

Saturday: Men's Breakfast, 9 am

Sunday: September 8th

10 am Worship with Rev. Hein Vermaak

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM donations/collections

September Birthdays

John Grubb- 1

Bill Yodis- 2

James Harris 12

Sandy Scheurer 12

David Henderson- 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

GUEST MINISTER

On September 8th Philip and Sherry Parker will be attending the anniversary celebration at the church where he served as pastor for many years. In his absence Reverend Hein Vermaak will be preaching at our church on that Sunday. He and his family were with us in August and we look forward to their return in September.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION- Revelation 3:20

Today we conclude our sermon series on God's Plan of Salvation. Like the doorway at our homes, the Lord Jesus Christ knocks at the door of our hearts. If we hear His knock and respond by inviting Him in, we will be invited to enter into a personal relationship with Him for all of eternity. We will enjoy the fellowship of His presence as we are seated at a great banquet hall in heaven.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper this Sunday is a foretaste of what we can expect to experience in the future.

Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer

Prayer is much more than asking God for the things we need and want. Like a personal relationship with a friend, it's an opportunity to spend time with our heavenly Father. In the same way that we use our five physical senses, such as hearing and seeing, to communicate with one another, we can reach out to God using our spiritual sensitivities. We can see and hear and feel

His presence in the same way that Adam and Eve did when they walked with the Lord in the Garden of Eden. That is why we have named this upcoming sermon series, "Walking Hand in Hand with God Through Prayer." The time has come for us to reach out and take His hand in ours as we journey down the road of life together beginning on Sunday morning, September 15th.

Leadership in the Life of our Church

Each year the Nominating Committee endeavors to find leaders from within our congregation who are willing to serve our church family. This year we need leaders in key positions including Finance and Property. The Nominating Committee needs your help. Using the first inside page of the church directory as a guide, please ask yourself and the Lord, "Where can I make a meaningful contribution that meets my gifts, talents, and abilities?" If you feel you have a calling, please feel free to explore possibilities with Bill Yodis, who chairs our Nominating Committee, or the Interim Pastor. Together, with God's help, we can build a strong and vibrant church.

Roanoke Pops- December 6th at 7:30 pm

It's that time of year again. Members and friends of BPC have been attending the Roanoke Pops Christmas Concert at the Salem Civic Center for quite a few years now. It is a wonderful fellowship event of fun and food, as we listen to the glorious music of the orchestra, choirs and guest vocalist. Our very own Bill Rutledge is a member of the Roanoke Chorus! We all bring an appetizer to share, which is always a treat! Wine and spirits are sold at the Civic center [you may not bring your own]. I will be sending out a list of what you can purchase in advance of the concert. We have been able to reserve three tables again this year. The date is December 6th, tickets are \$60.00 each. Deadline to reserve your seat is Sunday, October 27th. Please get in touch with Judy Blair to reserve your seat and get information on how to go about payment.