

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

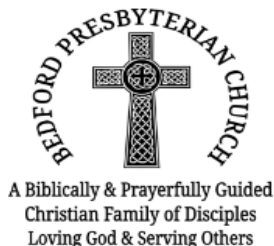


## Week of September 29<sup>th</sup>

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.



*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**

*“Nearer, Still Nearer”*  
(with “Nearer, My God, to Thee”)

Faye Lopez

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: Almighty God, as we gather to worship You,

**All: Show us Your presence.**

One: As we unite our voices to praise You

**All: Show us your Glory.**

One: As we tremble in the cleft of the rock, silently awaiting to see Your glory,

**All: Show us your goodness.**

One: Let the earth shake in Your praise, Most High!

**All: We extol Your great and awesome name, our ever-present God!**

**Hymn**

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

Hymn 48

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

God of mercy, we place our trust in tangible things—things we can see and touch—and question whether You are really there. Forgive us, Holy One, when we fail to recognize that You are always nearby, patiently waiting for us to recognize your presence and your glory. Help us when we lose our way and forgive us when we forget to whom we truly belong. Oh God, who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, open our eyes to see You; open our ears to hear You; open our hearts to love You; and open our hands to serve You.

**\*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

**Personal Testimony**

Nancy Van Dyke

**Song**

*“Rejoice”*

Tommy Walker

## **Sermon**

### REACHING OUT TO SEE THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Years ago there was a TV show called "Name that Tune." If you had been a contestant on that show, could you have identified this top ten melody from the 1970's? (Melody is played.) How about if a few words are added? (Words are sung.) If you are a Beatles' fan you probably remember the name of this song. It's "My Sweet Lord." Written by George Harrison, one of the Beatles, shortly after the group broke up. The song is a prayer, expressing George's desire to reach out to God. His understanding of God may have been a little confused, somewhere between Christianity and Hinduism, but the desire to reach out to God is clearly expressed in the song he wrote. Listen, for example, to the first verse. "My sweet Lord, I really wanna see You, really want to be with You. Really want to see You Lord, but it takes so long, my Lord."

While we may not be too comfortable with Harrison's theology, one thing comes through loud and clear. He wants to see God, to really know Him, but realizes that accomplishing that goal isn't going to be easy, or as he says in his song, "Really want to see you Lord, but it takes so long." Looking back into the pages of the Old Testament, there is another individual who felt the same way. He too wanted to see the Lord. He too desired to have a personal encounter with God. His name was Moses and the biblical account depicting his request to see and know the Lord can be found in Exodus, chapter 33, verses 12-23. Let me share it with you this morning.

Looking over this passage of Scripture, several things come to mind. Although the word prayer is not used, this was clearly a prayer like request, something that Moses was asking God to do for him. It was composed of two parts. First of all, Moses was asking God not to desert His people when they left the Mountain of God and began their journey to the Promised Land. Because the children of Israel had been such a rebellious people, including that disastrous affair with the golden calf, Moses needed to be reassured of God's blessings and guidance. Otherwise, they were going to stay right there at the mountain. They were God's people. Without the Lord's abiding presence they would be indistinguishable from all the other nations around them.

The second part of the prayer was more personal in nature. Moses had come to the realization that God knew who he was, dating all the way back to that moment when he was placed in a little reed basket in the bullrushes of the Nile River. But what did he know about God. Yes, the Lord had spoken to Moses at the burning bush and had given him great power over pharaoh and the Egyptians. But who was this God? What was He really like? The time had come for Moses to know the Lord just as fully and completely as the Lord knew him. So he had made this second request, "Show me your glory. Show me who you really are. Show me the depth and the breath of your divinity." To say the least, it was an audacious prayer. Moses was asking God to reveal Himself in the same way that two friends really get to know one another. Wow!

How did God respond? Did He say, "Out of here! You have no right to make such a request. I'm going to obliterate you." Quite the contrary. He said, "I will reveal a portion of my nature and personality to you. I will show you my goodness, My desire for you and your people to experience the very best in life. I will share with you My personal name "I AM WHO I AM," the One who exists without beginning or end. I will also let you know that I am a merciful and compassionate God for those whom I have chosen to bless. But there is one thing I cannot do. I cannot let you see My face. I cannot let you be exposed to the complete and absolute majesty of My divine presence. It would overwhelm you and bring your life to an end. Instead I will shield you. I will take you to a place near Me and place you in the cleft of a rock covering you with My hand until My glorious countenance has passed by. Then you can catch a departing glimpse of who I am.

Now what does all of this say to us with regards to our prayer lives, especially if we want to see, to experience the presence of God? There are three things that I would like to call to your attention. First, Moses' encounter with God was a Protected Experience and the same is true for you and me. We serve an awesome God. To encounter God in the fullness of who He is would be like having a face-to-face encounter with the brilliance of the sun. We would be consumed by the intensity of His light. We would not survive. For that reason God shields us, protects us from the full weight of His glory. Years ago I read this account about Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist of the nineteenth century. Speaking of a divine encounter in which he was filled with the Holy Spirit, Moody said, "God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand." Near the end of his first letter to Timothy, Paul described the Lord in this manner, "God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see" (1 Timothy 6:15-16). I cannot help but wonder if these two verses of Scripture were the inspiration for that beloved hymn, the first verse of which declares, "Immortal, invisible God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed most glorious the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise."

Here's the second thing that I want to share with you about Moses' encounter with God. It was a Personal Encounter. Much like Dwight L. Moody's encounter with the Lord, God enabled Moses to experience a moment of divine intimacy. He could see and feel God's presence. Such was also the experience of another of the Lord's servants, a man by the name of Jonathan Edwards. A well-known pastor and theologian in colonial America, he recorded a personal narrative describing his own personal encounter with the Lord. This is what he wrote:

*Once, as I rid out into the woods for my health, anno 1732, and having lit from my horse in a retired place, as my manner commonly has been, to walk for divine contemplation and prayer; I had a view, that for me was extraordinary, of wonderful, great, full, pure and sweet grace and love, and meek and gentle condescension. This grace, that appeared to me so calm and sweet, appeared great above the heavens. The person of Christ appeared ineffably excellent, with an excellency great enough to swallow up all thought and conception. Which continued, as near as I can judge, about an hour; which kept me, the bigger part of the time, in a flood of tears, and weeping aloud. I felt withal, an ardency of soul to be, what I know not otherwise how to express, than to be emptied and annihilated; to lie in the dust, and to be full of Christ alone; to love Him, and to be totally wrapped up in the fullness of Christ; and to be perfectly sanctified and made pure, with a divine and heavenly purity.*

The language may be a bit flowery to modern ears, but I hope you can appreciate what he experienced? Jonathan Edwards saw and felt the presence of God in that New England forest as he prayed. It was a personal encounter with the Almighty.

Now here's the final thing I want to share with you. When we meet the Lord through prayer, it is always a Positive Experience. I was reminded of this as I listened to the personal testimony of Sylvia Glover during the second session of our video series on prayer this past Wednesday afternoon. She was headed down a one-way street towards alcoholism and drug abuse until she met the Lord and became one of His most powerful prayer warriors. Moses and the other two men I spoke about this morning were also blessed with a positive outcome after meeting the Lord. Even though he was over eighty years of life, Moses received the strength and guidance he needed to lead the people of Israel to their promised destination. Dwight L. Moody's evangelistic ministry was transformed. He preached the same sermons as before, but now thousands responded because he was a person filled with the Holy Spirit. Jonathan Edwards was blessed with one of the keenest intellects this nation has ever produced and is known today as the Father of the First Great Spiritual Awakening.

I can't help but wonder what God can do in our lives when we reach out to see and encounter the presence of God through prayer? Speaking on the Lord's behalf, the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah, continues to remind us, "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all of your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Worship Song**

*"I Want to Be Where You Are"*

Don Moen

**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.

**\*Closing Hymn**

*"Knowing You"*

Hymn 357

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Father, thank You for the extraordinary gift of knowing You—not just knowing about you, but knowing You personally and experiencing You daily in our lives. There are multitudes of people who need to know You—to know what You are really like and to know how much You love us. We give you these tithes and offerings today along with the prayer that You show us how to use them to manifest Your great glory to the world. Amen.

## THE SENDING FORTH

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"Postlude on Saint Denio"*

Edward W. Beals

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of our collective families who have gone before us in Christ. Ron & Margaret Morris

# October 2024

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

## Concerns-September 29<sup>th</sup>

- 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  
Family of Dr. Paul Rhodes on passing
- Boone:** Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery  
Mark Luft (neighbor) fell, rehab, family issues  
Tammy (friend) open heart surgery  
Rebekah Overstreet's family
- Blair:** Philip Davis recovering melanoma surgery  
Arrington- pancreatic cancer, 6 months to live
- 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 severe 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- home doing better  
Prayers for everyone on dialysis
- Froberg:** 10 week old great niece cranium, surgery went well
- Goode:** Amy (niece) biopsy
- Goodman:** John Ramsey (nephew) open heart surgery
- Grigg:** Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments  
Chris Mays- diabetic complications
- Grubb:** John- cancer, more testing, upcoming surgery
- 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  
**Nichols:** son-in-law throat surgery  
**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 home  
Morgan (nephew) life decisions  
**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  
**Vermaak:** prayers as he begins Associate Pastor position at Bedford Baptist  
**Webb:** looking for caretaker for aunt

**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 29<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Session

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: October 6<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Communion

### **October Birthdays**

Kathy Grigg - 5  
Scarlett Stevens - 6  
Lori Stetson - 9  
Philip Parker - 11  
Libby Monk - 21  
Jim Barefoot - 28  
Ann Marie Fleming - 28  
Linda Benton -30

### **October Anniversaries**

Richard & Belvia Tate - 3  
Jay & Venus Gould - 5  
James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28  
Paul & Nancy Van Dyke - 30

### **Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer**

We're almost halfway through our congregational emphasis on prayer. Next Sunday we will be "Reaching Out to Experience the Power of God through Prayer." On Wednesday during the Something More session we will continue to learn more about the exciting prayer ministry of the Brooklyn Tabernacle as we continue to view the video series and pray together in our small groups. It's not too late to be a part of our congregational emphasis on prayer.

### **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 were 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.

Thank you for your continued support

BPC Financial Snapshot						
General Operations Contribution Income			General Operations Expense			
	Forecast	Actual	YTD Ahead/(Behind)	Monthly Expense Target	Actual Expenses	YTD (Over)/Under Spent
Aug 2024	\$ 15,040.00	\$ 13,418.39	\$ (2,204.05)	\$ 17,034.05	\$ 9,607.00	\$ 46,704.82



**Bedford Hiking Club heads to the very top!**

Join us on Saturday, **October 26<sup>th</sup>** as we take in the last of the fall colors from the top of Apple Orchard Mountain, the highest point on the Virginia AT. This easy 2 mile circle walk – up the trail then back down the service road – travels along one of the most beautiful sections of the AT bringing you to an open meadow, beside the radar dome, featuring scenic views of the Shenandoah valley and mountain ranges all the way back to Roanoke. Since this is such a short walk, why don't you pack a picnic meal to enjoy up on the meadow.



For those who want to carpool, we will leave from the church at 9a. or you can meet us at the pull off beside the radar station driveway around 9:30 (*just let me know if you choose this option*). In case of rain the hike will be rescheduled for November 2. For more info, contact [jtsalley@gmail.com](mailto:jtsalley@gmail.com).

**Men's Breakfast October 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

Please join us as Educator Rick Foster of Central Virginia Community College speaks and we enjoy a wonderful breakfast.