

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



Week of November 10th

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 with My Soul"

Marianne Kim

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We love you, LORD, our strength. The LORD is our rock, our fortress and our deliverer.

All: Our God is our rock, in whom we take refuge, our shield and the horn of our salvation.

One: You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

All: You, LORD, keep our lamps burning; our God turns our darkness into light. With your help we can advance against a troop; with our God we can scale a wall.

One: As for God, His way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in him.

All: The LORD lives! Praise be to our Rock! Exalted be God our Savior!

Hymn

"Built on the Rock"

Hymn 546

***Prayer of Confession:**

Dear Jesus, You have called us together to be the Church, sisters and brothers united by faith. We thank you that You have filled our church with love for each other, a love that we long to share with our neighbors, but we sadly lack the know-how or boldness to do so. You have called us to love You with all of our heart, soul, mind and body, yet we often worship You with little passion. You have called us to be a house of prayer for the nations, yet we act like You can accomplish Your work without our help. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, and remind us again of Your design for the Church, Your body. Embolden us by The Holy Spirit to live with You as our head, 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

Praise Song

"You Are My All in All" with "So Worthy"

Hymn 427

While some may doubt that God created government, no one can seriously doubt that He was not involved in the creation of the church. Both the Gospels and the book of Acts testify to this reality. Today we are going to take a look at several passages of Scripture in these two books. But before we do, let's begin with this question. Where did the word "church" come from? It's used almost universally to describe Christian gatherings, but what does this designation really mean? Without going into a lengthy discussion, the word "church" is Old English in origin. It is derived from a term that is still used in Scotland, where a church is called a "kirk." Going all the way back to the New Testament Greek, the word for church is "ecclesia." It refers to an assembly or gathering of people called together for a special purpose. That special purpose, of course is to worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. So there you have it. We're an assembly of Christians.

But how about our origin? If we're one of the three institutions that God has established, who created us, how did we come into existence, and what was it like to be a member of one of those early churches? Let's take a look at each of these questions beginning with the first one. Who created us? The answer is found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. All three describe this same event in the life and ministry of Christ. Being included in all three of the four Gospels indicates that this was something of great importance. So let's turn our attention to what is recorded in Matthew's account, chapter sixteen, verses thirteen through twenty.

In Matthew's Gospel he tells us that Jesus and His disciples had taken a break and journeyed to northern Galilee. It was a time for reflection and introspection, which is clearly evident by what Jesus asked His disciples. He said, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" He was referring, of course, to Himself. The disciples told Jesus what they had heard. Some people were saying that He was another John the Baptist, the first one having been recently beheaded. Others were saying that Jesus was another Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. In other words the people believed that like these famous individuals Jesus was not afraid to boldly proclaim the truth. Then Jesus turned to His disciples and asked them, "Who do you say I am." Having been with Him for some time, Jesus wanted to know if He was something more to them than just prophetic spokesman. As was often the case, Peter was the first one to speak. Without hesitating for even a moment, he almost shouted, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

In response Jesus replied, "Blessed are you Simon of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:17-18). Based upon Peter's rock like affirmation that Jesus was the promised Messiah, the Son of God, Christ was going to build a church, an assembly of believers, on that same rock like faith. It would be a church that was so strong and so resilient that not even the forces of Satan himself could destroy it. Most importantly of all, this church would belong to Jesus. He would be its creator and protector. The same is true today. We may call ourselves Bedford Presbyterian Church,

but that does not represent our true ownership. We belong to Jesus Christ. We, along with all of the other churches in all of the other denominations in the whole world, belong to Jesus. We are His unique possession. It's something that we need to keep in mind. He is the One who is ultimately in charge of our congregation and we need to continually look to Him for leadership and guidance as we move forward.

Now let's take a look at that second question. How did the church come into existence? Just prior to His ascension into heaven following His resurrection, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1-2:41). They didn't have to wait long. It

was the day of Pentecost, a Jewish holiday celebrating the ingathering of the first harvests in the early summer months. The disciples along with Mary and Jesus' brothers were meeting together in the Upper Room where they had celebrated the Last Supper. Suddenly a great wind swept through the room and tongues of fire descended upon their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately began praising God and declaring His wonders. Those who witnessed this miraculous event did not understand what was going on. In response, Peter preached his first sermon and this was the result. "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day" (Acts 2:41). That was a phenomenal spiritual event. It was also the birthday of the church. That's when it came into existence. That's when it was born.

The birthday of the church which we still celebrate in the spring/early summer is called Pentecost Sunday. It is a reminder that even as the Jewish people celebrated the gathering of the first crops for harvesting, in like manner the ingathering of the kingdom of God began on that day. It's also a reminder of our purpose as God's people. Under the direction and empowering of God's Spirit, we are to do the same kind of things as those early Christians did. We too are to declare the wonders of God as well as leading people to faith in Christ Jesus. Just recently I read an article about a church right here in Bedford. Not only do they have a multitude of services attracting a large congregation, but they have been instrumental in establishing thirteen other churches. Years ago Bedford Presbyterian was also instrumental in establishing other churches. In 1893, Augusta Graves departed for missionary service in China. Then in 1912, Junia Graves was appointed to start a mission on Taylor's Mountain right here in Bedford, which eventually became the Cool Springs Presbyterian Church, a congregation still serving the people of that community to this day. They knew, both the ones who were sent and those who sent them, that the church was born with a singular purpose in mind, to lead people to Christ. We need to adopt that same attitude. Otherwise we will have forgotten why we were created.

Now on to that last question. What was it like to be a member of that first church which was established nearly two thousand years ago? A brief summary is provided at the end of chapter two in the book of Acts. In the space of just five verses, verses 42-47, we are given this snap shot of life in the early church. This is what its members were engaged in: they listened to the apostles' teaching; they enjoyed each other's company, especially when they ate together; they practiced generosity, sharing their possessions with those in need; they worshipped the Lord in the temple, praising God for what He was doing in their lives; and

finally, they experienced continual growth as well as enjoying the favor of those who lived around them. What does all of that sound like? It sounds like the life of today's churches. In fact, it sounds like the life of our church. We do those same kind of things. We worship together on Sunday mornings praising the Lord and listening to the proclamation of His Word. We enjoy each other's fellowship, especially when we have those covered dish luncheons. We provide assistance to those in need and like the early church we pray.

There is, however, one thing that the early church did which we are not so good at. They were outreach oriented. They wanted to tell everyone about their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. As stated earlier, that was the first thing they did after they were brought into existence on the day of Pentecost. Simply stated, churches that bring people to Christ and invite them to become a part of their church family grow. They are fulfilling their calling and their destiny ordained by God. Those which do not wither and die. I close with this example. The Moravian Church was born in Europe during the Reformation. It was a rather small group of persecuted Christians. Nevertheless, it became one of the most evangelical, outreach oriented bodies of Christ in the entire world during the 1700's . They sent their people as missionaries to the far corners of the world. They

established entire communities of believers in places like Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Salem, later known as Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Gradually, however, over time they lost interest in missions, leading people to Christ, and began to withdrawn unto themselves. Today they are known for their brass bands and Easter sunrise celebrations and that's just about it. They are gradually fading away.

Our church was officially established in 1844, because there was need for a vibrant witness for Christ in the frontier town of Bedford. That need still exists and God is both able and willing to bless us if we will only both be and do that which the early church did. They lived their faith and shared their faith with those who lived around them. It be said of us that which was said of that early church in the pages of the New Testament, "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Mighty Wind"

Andrae Crouch

Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, God is with us.

We believe in God: who created all things, who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make us new, who works in us by His Holy Spirit. We trust in God and God alone

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to pray that God's kingdom and His will be done on the earth, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Savior and our Hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

As we offer our gifts to You, we are reminded of Your call to step out into the world and make a difference. Give us courage and wisdom as we engage with the world around us, sharing Your love and truth with others. Bless these offerings, that they may support ministries and missions that reach out to those in need. And empower us to be Your hands and feet in the world, shining Your light wherever we go."

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 Praise***

"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

Hymn 541

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Toccatà"

Dubois

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Dianne Fain's birthday from her children.

The funeral for Christine Riley will be here on November 17th at 2 pm, a reception will follow the service. Burch-Messier Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

There will not be any visitation before the service.

If you can bring finger foods to share at the reception, it would be greatly appreciated.

November 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 <i>Men's Breakfast 9 am</i>
3 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>	4	5	6 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	11	12	13 <i>Deacon's Meeting 1pm</i> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	14 <i>Shoebox packing</i>	15	16
17 <i>10 am Worship Christine Riley funeral</i>	18	19	20 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Worship</i>	25	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving Office Closed</i>	28	29	30

Joys- November 10th

Joy- Michelle Goode- Christmas Box packing

Joy- Tom Foster celebrating 80th birthday

Concerns- November 10th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Jim in hospital, recovering from surgery no visitors

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry- leukemia treatment unsuccessful

Benton: Nicole- (stepdaughter) in Asheville helping Helene victims

Blair: Philip Davis recovering from surgery for melanoma

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) 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

Dan- cataract surgery

Dwyer: Nancy's husband, Bill having knee transplant

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Jim (brother) 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

Prayers for everyone on dialysis and those in paths of storms where centers are gone.

Goode: Amy (niece) biopsy

Goodman: Friend Betty is near death

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer

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

Harris: Jim, back pain

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn-Kibbey: Dot reinjured her back

Sarah McCabe Oakes, amputation of pelvis and leg

Lambert: Margaret sciatica pain, arthritis

Linton: Candy (Parkers's friend) health issues from car accident

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

Margaret's brother in NC prayers for those impacted by storm

Riley: Prayers for family on Christine's passing

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues

Salley: Jillian Salley pregnancy doing better

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-moving to CA, for coordination to get Savannah there safely

Morgan (nephew) life decisions

Cook at Shepherd's Table, has baby in NICU

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Earl Carter- health issues

Matt- lung cancer

All Virginia towns impacted by hurricane

Van Dyke: Prayers to solve evil in country

Marilyn (92 yr old neighbor) fell, broke leg

Watkins: family of Dr. Wells, son COPD in hospice,

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 November 10th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
5¢ a Meal Offering
BCM donations/collections

Wednesday: Deacon's 1 pm
Something More 3 pm

Sunday: November 17th
10 am Worship
2pm Christne Riley Funeral with reception

November Birthdays

Judy Harris - 13
Gerda Schubert - 13
Bill Rutledge - 23
Dianne Fain - 29
Barry Schubert – 30
Lynne Palmer - 30

November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddams – 25