

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)



Week of February 16, 2025

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 "Redeemed" Larry Shackley

Words of Welcome

***Posting of the Colors** "To the Colors"

***The Pledge of Allegiance**

***Hymn** "My Country 'Tis of Thee" Hymn 731

Cub Scout Report Pack Leader

***A Scout Is** (responsive reading)

Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of Scouts and young adults throughout the world today, but the principles of this law have been brought to us from ancient days. All of the points of the scout law find their source in the Bible. Such as ...

People: A Scout is trustworthy.

Leader: The Bible teaches, he who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)

People: A Scout is loyal.

Leader: The Bible says, You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge ...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ...(Leviticus 19:18)

People: A Scout is helpful.

Leader: The Bible says, if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (Matthew 5:41)

People: A Scout is friendly.

Leader: Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Romans 12:10 & Psalm 133)

People: A Scout is courteous.

Leader: Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

People: A Scout is kind.

Leader: A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (Proverbs 12:10)

People: A Scout is obedient.

Leader: Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. And the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

People: A Scout is cheerful.

Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken...All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. (Proverbs 15:13-15)

People: A Scout is thrifty.

Leader: Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer and gathers its sustenance in harvest.

(Proverbs 6:6-8)

People: A Scout is brave.

Leader: Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.' (Deuteronomy 31:6)

People: A Scout is clean.

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessings from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. (Psalm 24:3-5)

People: A Scout is reverent. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. As God's word commands us, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30, 31)

***Gloria**

"Glory to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Amos 8:4-7

(page 856)

***Worship Song**

"Victory Chant"

"You're the Love of My Life"

Sermon

Unrelenting Oppression

When I was about thirteen years of age I joined the Boy Scouts. It was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I learned a lot of things like how to tie knots, how to administer first aid and how to go camping in the woods. Just as importantly I learned some things about how we should treat one another. They are summed up in the Scout Law—a Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. We could spend the remainder of this morning talking about each of these character traits. They are good rules to live by. They helped me to grow up from a boy into a man. They also taught me the value of being the kind of person who strives to help others instead of taking advantage of them.

Unfortunately, there was a group of people living a long time ago, who didn't want to live by the Scout Law. They didn't observe any of those things that make it easier for us to get along with one another. They were not helpful, friendly, courteous, or kind. In fact, they were just the opposite. They did their best to be hurtful and abusive. They knew better because they were God's people. He had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and He had given them a beautiful land in which to live. He had also given them some rules to live by which would help them to live peacefully and lovingly with one another. These rules are found in the nineteenth chapter of Leviticus, the third book in the Old Testament. Here are a few of the things God said, "Leave a little extra when you harvest your fields for the poor. Don't deceive one another. Don't withhold the wages of those who work for you. Don't pervert justice or show partiality. Don't seek revenge or bear a grudge. Do not use dishonest weights and measures." Summing it all up, God told the Israelites, "Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:18). Centuries later Jesus would quote this same verse of Scripture when asked about the two greatest commandments. He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40).

The people to whom Amos was speaking knew what God had said. They were just not listening. In fact, they were determined to do exactly the opposite of what He said. That's why the Lord had sent Amos to preach to them and to warn them that judgement was coming if they persisted in their

oppressive behavior. So Amos was not only God's spokesman, he had become God's prosecuting attorney, bringing his case against the people of Israel, especially the wealthy upper class. As the prosecuting attorney his job was to carefully delineate all of the ways that these Israelites had taken advantage of their neighbors, especially those who were poor and impoverished. The Scripture which was read this morning was like a listing of offenses presented to a jury. Let's review them together.

This is a summary of the charges that Amos brought against them. He said that they trampled the needy and did away with the poor in the following ways. They could hardly wait until the Sabbath was over so they could start selling their goods. When they opened their shops they sold two thirds of a pound of wheat, but charged the customers for a whole pound. They also raised the prices for the things they were selling to secure a greater profit. Today we'd call it price gouging. Additionally merchants used scales that were tilted in their favor. Goods, especially grains and produce were sold by weight. You put the goods you wanted to buy on one side of the scale and the merchant put his weights on the other side until the two sides were in balance with one another. What if the weights were not true, the weight that said one pound was actually only three quarters of a pound, then you would be short changing the customer. That's precisely what was taking place. Furthermore, Amos said that the poor were being bought with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. Here's what was happening. A farmer would get a loan to buy seed to plant a field. If the crop failed or he was cheated when he tried to sell his harvest, he would not have enough money to pay off his debt. First his field, then his possessions and finally even his freedom would be forfeited. Both he and his family would be sold into slavery. Finally, Amos said that sweepings were being sold with wheat. In other words impurities were being added to that which was being marketed as pure. If you purchased five pounds of wheat, a pound of it might be contaminated with dust and dirt left over from the threshing process.

In response, Amos said that the Lord would not forget what they had done. He would respond in such a way that His righteous anger would be released upon the land. Verses nine through fourteen in chapter eight, describe a series of events that would be visited upon the land of Israel from unusual natural phenomenon such as darkened skies at midday to a widespread famine which would hold the country in its iron grip. Worst of all there would be no word of hope or consolation from the Lord. He would not answer their prayers or respond to their cries for help. Mourning and despair would fill the land. It would become a sad scene indeed.

The consequences spelled out in these verses reminds me of an incident that took place in my English class in high school. In the twelfth grade we studied English literature, the writings of the people of Great Britain. Our teacher, who was a loving, but stern disciplinarian, decided to give a young college teacher in training an opportunity to lead the class. She would step next door into the library during that period of instruction. It just so happened that that very day was the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare. So my fellow students decided to throw a party. They took over the classroom, opening snacks that had been brought from home while the student teacher watched the proceedings, both surprised and dismayed by what was happening. All was going along quite nicely until the door to the library opened and Mrs. Davis stepped across the threshold. The party had gotten a little too noisy and she'd heard what was going on. I'll never forget the look on her face and the sound of her voice. We had been caught red handed and judgement was about to descend upon us from on high. Multiply that by a thousand times over and you'll have some idea of what the Lord had in store for the people of Israel because of the way they had abused and taken advantage of those among them who were not as well off.

So what does all of this have to say to us today. There are several things that I want to call to your attention. First, we have an obligation to care for those in need of help. The Scout Slogan says, "Do a good turn daily." That applies to all of us and it's more than doing nice things for people. It's also treating them nicely. Taking advantage of people, bullying and looking down on others who may look or act a little differently should never become a part of our lives at school, on the job, at

home, or even here at church. Instead, we should do just the opposite. We should reach out to them to lift them up just like Jesus did. Over and over again Jesus extended a helping hand to those who were on the lowest rungs of society, like those blind beggars on the road to Jericho who needed to have their sight restored.

Second, helping others is one of the ways we honor God. In the Old Testament there is a book which offers lots of everyday wisdom. It's called Proverbs. Here is what it says about helping others. "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors God" (Proverbs 14:31). When we help others, it not only honors God, but is also like actually doing something for Him personally. That is what Jesus meant when He talked about addressing the needs of the hungry, the thirsty, the lonely and the sick. He said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these, you do it unto Me" (Matthew 25:40).

Finally, helping others is a blessing. Not helping them can become just the opposite, a curse. Once again we find this bit of wisdom in the book of Proverbs. "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses" (Proverbs 28:27). Blessings and curses come in many shapes and sizes and not always the stuff or lack of stuff in this world. More frequently than not, blessings and curses have to do with our feelings and attitudes about life. Remember old Ebenezer Scrooge in Dicken's A Christmas Carol? What was he like before the three ghosts of Christmas visited him? He may have had lots of money, but he was cursed with a bitter, selfish, lonely, self-centered way of life. He was miserable. But when he opened his heart and his wallet to others, including his impoverished employee, Bob Cratchit, he became a man blessed with an abundance of joy and happiness.

To sum it all up, let us open our hearts to those in need, never seeking to take advantage of them for selfish gain. For in so doing both we and they will be blessed.

***Worship Song** *"Let It Be"* Tommy Walker

Doxology *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, we praise You, we glorify You, we bless You and give thanks to You for Your great goodness and tender mercy. Help us to always be a reflection of Your loving heart that we might always do what is right, love mercy and walk humbly with You, our God. To that end, bless these offerings for Your glory. 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.

***Closing Hymn** *"God, You Spoke Your Word Through Amos"* Carolyn Gillette

***Benediction**

Postlude *"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"* Diane Bish

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband,
Sampson C. Boone III, March 22, 1955, to February 14, 2023, by Christy Boone.

February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Men's Breakfast 9 am</i>
2 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	3	4	5 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i> <i>Music Course 6 pm</i>	6	7	8
9 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	10	11	12 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i> <i>Deacons' 1 pm</i> <i>Music Course 6 pm</i>	13	14 <i>Valentines Day Tea 2 pm</i>	15 <i>Fun & Games 1pm</i>
16 <i>10 am Worship Scout Sunday</i>	17	18	19 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i> <i>Music Course 6 pm</i>	20	21	22
23 <i>10 am Worship</i>	24	25	26 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i> <i>Music Course 6 pm</i>	27	28	

Joys- February 16th

Joy- Russell Stevens shared Chief Hops got good report

Joy- the wonderful duet from Christy and Bill

Concerns- February 16th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Jim, home, continues to improve

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry- leukemia treatment unsuccessful

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

Connie- (friend) hospice

Boone: niece undergoing radiation treatments

Travel mercies as Christy visits daughter

Friend's son in rehab

Brunot: Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues

Bob (friend) doing better

Laurie: mother has cancer

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

Frank Sicillano (brother-in-law) cancer in pain

Granddaughter, massive heart attack

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

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

Easter: Jim (brother) cancer

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

Previous Pastor heart surgery went well

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

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

Bob- (Ellen's brother) heart surgery went well, home

Goode: (friend) Tommy Atkinson stroke

Goodman: Friend Betty is near death

Grigg: Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer, doing well

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

Harris: Jim, back pain

Judy- shoulder replaced

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn-Kibbey: Dot reinjured her back

Sarah McCabe Oakes,(friend) amputation leg, pelvis

Lambert: Margaret sciatica pain, arthritis

Linton: Candy (Parker'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
Granddaughter had a seizure

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Rev. Pam Ledbetter
Elisa- (daughter-in-law) family needs

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues

Saunders: Gloria, gravely ill hospice

Saunders: Ron, home recovering from double pneumonia
Special prayers for California and people in track of fire
Son-in-law, cancer not spreading

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,
Lori with Savannah surgery
Morgan (nephew) life decisions
Cook at Shepherd's Table, baby in NICU

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Matt- lung cancer, still suffering
All Virginia towns impacted by hurricane
Chief 'Hops' cancer that is spreading, UVA
Plane crash first responders

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 16th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Scout Sunday

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm
Music Course 6 pm

Sunday: February 23rd
10 am Worship
Food You Love Potluck

February Birthdays

John Salley -23
Janis Easter - 26
Richard Overstreet -27
Karen Overstreet -28

February Anniversaries

Jim & Judy Harris - 13

Something More

Come and join us on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 pm for a time of Bible study and fellowship. It's a lively discussion on all kinds of things related to our walk with Christ as well as an opportunity to dig a little deeper into the spiritual truths of God's Word presented during our worship services on Sunday mornings.

Foods You Love

There will be a Potluck following the Service on February 16th. Bring your favorite foods and come join us for great food and fellowship.