

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

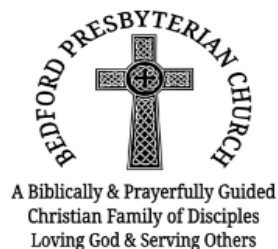


Week of July 6, 2025

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

"When I Can Read My Title Clear"

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Hymn

"God, Our Father, We Adore Thee"

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Merciful God, we confess that we seek to fill our emptiness with fleeting comforts instead of waiting for the fullness of Your Spirit. We resist Your call, seeking satisfaction in relationships, possessions, addictions, and distractions. We suppress our need for You, chasing meaning in things that cannot satisfy. Cleanse us and fill us anew with Your Spirit, that we may boldly proclaim the grace of Jesus Christ to all people. 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 Patri**

"Glory to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Philip

Scripture Reading

Acts 4: 23-31

Hymn

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

Getty/Townend

Sermon

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Last Sunday I introduced the sermon by speaking about one of my favorite movies, Star Wars. This morning I would like to do so again. Here's why. In that film the force that emanates throughout the universe accomplishes two things. First, it changes the lives of those who are impacted by its presence. Luke Skywalker, for example, is transformed from an angry teenager into a Jedi knight. He is able to accomplish things which would otherwise have been impossible. He becomes a different kind of person. Second, through him and others who have also been transformed by this invisible force, they are able to thwart the powers of evil and save his world from destruction. Having just heard the passage of Scripture that was read this morning, did you not sense that something of a similar nature took place in the lives of those early Christians? Not only were they changed, but the world in which they lived was also changed. Most importantly of all, this passage of Scripture is not a make-believe movie. It really happened and it

continues to happen in our world today. What took place and what continues to take place is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

So today let's take an insightful look at what this passage of Scripture is telling us. Let's also take a look at how this passage of Scripture has been replicated over and over again down throughout the centuries of Christian history. Finally, let's take a careful look at how it can apply to our lives today. Let's discover how the ministry of the Holy Spirit changes both people's lives and the world in which they live. But before we dive into the Scriptures, a word of clarification is needed. What do we mean when we talk about the ministry of the Holy Spirit? The word ministry has a rather simple meaning. It refers to that which we do for someone else, a service that we perform for them. So when we talk about the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we're talking about what God through His Spirit is willing and able to do for you and me. Personally, I find that rather incredible. The God of all creation is willing to spend His time and effort to do something rather wonderful in our lives, to shape and mold us into something far better than what we could accomplish on our own. With that in mind, let's see what this passage of Scripture has to say to us.

It begins by mentioning that Peter and John had just been released from incarceration, which raises the question of by whom and what for. The day before on their way to the temple Peter had healed a crippled beggar. Now leaping and dancing, he entered the temple along with them. Those who remembered him begging at the entrance to the temple were amazed, which gave Peter an opportunity to tell the multitudes about Jesus, the one in whose name the beggar had been healed. The Jewish authorities who ran the temple were not pleased. They arrested the two apostles and questioned them the next day. Telling them to stop preaching and teaching about Jesus, they released them from custody. Back among their own, Peter and John reported what had happened. In response, these early followers of Christ raised their voices in prayer. Let's take a look at this prayer.

First, they acknowledged the greatness of God. Then they told the Lord that they had expected this kind of response from the religious authorities in the temple because it had been prophesied by their ancestor David in the book of Psalms. He had foretold that this kind of oppression would be brought against God's people. Now that had taken place through an unlikely alliance between the temple priests and the Roman authorities, including Pilate and Herod, who conspired together to both execute Jesus, the Messiah, and then suppress those who preached in His name. Based upon this realization, they concluded their prayer with these words, "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus" (Acts 4:29-30). The temple authorities had told them to be quiet. They earnestly prayed that God would enable them to do just the opposite. The Lord answered their prayer immediately. This passage of Scripture then concludes by declaring that the place where they were meeting was shaken and that they "were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31).

So there you have it. After they prayed, these early disciples of Christ were transformed by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Any fears about their identities as Christians and what they were supposed to do were cast aside. They had been changed and in response great changes took place all around them. A spirit of generosity prevailed, everyone sharing their personal possessions with those in need. Church discipline was exercised, especially with regards to two within their company who had tried to deceive the early church. Additionally, many miraculous signs and wonders took place. People were healed of their infirmities as the church continued to meet in the temple at Jerusalem. Best of all the early church continued to grow. More and more people became Christians. The ministry of the Holy Spirit impacted their lives both individually and corporately, one person at a time, but multiplying that blessing over and over again in a multitude of people and in a multitude of ways.

The same is true with regards to the history of the Christian church. Prayer has always been a dynamic part of the work of the Holy Spirit. Such was the case in 1857 when six men joined together for prayer at noon at the Fulton Street Church in New York City. God honored their devotion and soon prayer meetings were being held all across the nation. Factories and businesses would actually shut down at noon for one hour so that people could attend prayer meetings. Based upon the theme of Matthew 26:40, "could you not watch with Me one hour," thousands of people came to faith in Christ and were received into the Christian church. All across the nation this prayer revival impacted towns and communities, often covered by the leading newspapers of the day. Some have felt that it was a spiritual awakening that prepared the nation for the great conflict that was soon to erupt between the north and the south.

To wrap things up, the ministry of the Holy Spirit serves two purposes. First of all, the Spirit of the Lord speaks to us personally and individually, convicting us of sin, calling us to become Christians, encouraging us to dedicate our lives to Christ. He is busy in some other ways as well, bringing revival and renewal to all of God's people in great movements of the Spirit that impact entire cultures and populations of people. Right here in America, there have been many great outpourings of the Holy Spirit, dating all the way back to the 1700's. We are in need of that again. Like those early Christians of the first century, let us pray that the ministry of the Holy Spirit will be experienced in our midst once again so that we, like them will be able to boldly live and proclaim the Word of God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

<i>Worship Song</i>	<i>"Holy Spirit, Rain Down"</i>	Russell Fragar
<i>Communion</i>	<i>"Bread of the World"</i> <i>"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"</i>	Instrumental
<i>Doxology</i>	<i>"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"</i>	Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, today our hearts overflow with gratitude for Your tender mercies and unfailing love, which have made a way for us to be reconciled to You through your Son, Jesus Christ. Today we bring our offerings before You praying that they may be used to spread Your love and to bring hope to those in need. 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.

<i>Hymn</i>	<i>"Let Every Christian Pray"</i>	Hymn 332
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THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

<i>Postlude</i>	<i>"Laudes Domini"</i>	Dale Wood
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The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of my Mom's Birthday and the birth of our country, Colleen Perkins.

July 2025

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

Joys- July 6th

Joy- Jan Easter's brother-in-law is cancer free

Joy- John Grubb happy that granddaughter accepted at Liberty University

Joy- John Blair shared how thankful he was for Scout Camp

Joy- Keir Froberg's dad is out of hospital and doing better. Thanks for your prayers and well wishes

Concerns- July 6th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Joy (wife) fell prayers for healing

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry- leukemia treatment successful

Jeff Looney (nephew) stroke

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

Blair: Dr. Cohen stroke

Bill Dwyer complications from knee surgery

Tonya- daughter-in-law, broke leg

Brunot: Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

Jim's mother fell

Cindy's brother- health issues

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

Michael (brother) congestive heart failure, lump on lung

Jean (friend) family having strife

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

Tom Winslow friend recovering from surgery

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

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

Dwyer: Bill recovering from knee replacement

Easter: Jim (brother) now cancer free

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

Michael Kay (friend) last stages of lung cancer

Prayers for 85 yr old sister caring for 59 yr old son with Downs syndrome

Foster: Lynn (sister-in-law) 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: Prayers for goals with Christmas boxes

Sandra Grover- breast cancer

Goodman: Grandson traveling to Brazil for mission work

Travel Mercies on Great Gran tour to see new grandbabies

Grigg: Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer, doing well

Harris: Jim, back pain

Judy- prayers for family on passes of sister-in-law

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn-Kibbey: David Rutledge, (son) remission, doing well

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches

Gayle- home

McManis: for grandson leaving USMC

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Rev. Pam Ledbetter

Friend lost wife

Neal: bladder cancer, health issues

Nichols; Gracie Murphree blood pressure, multiple strokes

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues

Salley: John diagnosed with lymphoma, continued testing

Saunders: Ron, fell broke all right side ribs

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,

Morgan (nephew) life decisions

Cook at Shepherd's Table, baby in NICU

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Matt- lung cancer, still suffering

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 July 6th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Communion

Sunday: July 13th

10 am Worship

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM donations/collections

July Birthdays

Ryan Johnson- 6

Margaret Morris - 9

Charlotte McManis- 11

Janet Yodis – 13

Larry Compter- 18

Nancy Van Dyke - 22

Jay Gould – 31

Holy Spirit Sermon Series

It's not too hard to think of God as a Father who loves us, nor as a Son who has lived among us.

These are the first two persons or descriptions of the Triune God who is revealed to us in the pages of the Bible. But what about the Holy Spirit? How does He fit into this picture, especially when in years past He was also referred to as the Holy Ghost? Is He some kind of spiritual apparition who scares people into being Christians? Beginning this past Sunday and continuing in the weeks to come we're going to discover what the Bible tells us about the Holy Spirit and how He desires to bless our lives. Each of the sermons and services in this series is vitally important and is available online at our church's website for your review and study –bedfordpresbyva.org.

- The Ministry of the Holy Spirit—July 6
- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit—July 13
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit—July 20
- The Fruit of the Holy Spirit—July 27

End Times Seminar

In response to multiple requests a special "End Times Seminar" will be offered on Wednesdays, beginning on July 9th and continuing through July 29th. A worksheet will be prepared and available on the Sundays before each session. The seminar will be similar to the prayer seminar last fall. We will meet at 5 pm each Wednesday and end shortly after 6 each evening.

Updated Pictorial Directory

It's time to update our pictorial directory and we need your help. We need to take some new photographs and to make sure that the information for each family in the directory is accurate.

Both members and friends of our church family are encouraged to participate. A copy of the current directory has been placed at the back of the sanctuary. Check out the page that contains information about you and your family to make sure it is accurate. If you wish, a new photograph of you and your family can be taken. Contact Bill Mitchell to have your picture taken or you can submit a picture of you and your family for the directory.