

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

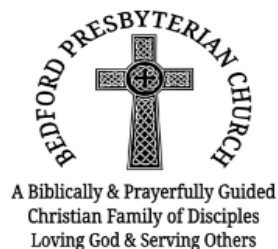


Week of July 20, 2025

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

"I'll Fly Away"

arr: Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Minute for Missions

Samaritans Purse

Michelle Goode

Call to Worship

One: People of God, we gather today with hearts open and spirits yearning. Like a dry land thirsting for rain, we long for the refreshing touch of God's Holy Spirit. We recognize that earthly things cannot fill the void within us, but only God's presence can truly satisfy our deepest needs. Let us come before Him with expectant hearts, ready to receive His grace and power.

All: We come to you, O God, with open hearts and hungry spirits. Fill us with Your presence, guide us with Your wisdom, and empower us with Your strength. We seek to know You more deeply and to be transformed by Your love.

Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Hymn 68

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have not always pursued You with the passion and devotion that we should. We have allowed distractions and complacency to creep into our lives, hindering our hunger for Your Spirit and Your Word. Our hearts have not always been set on things above, but on things that cannot truly fulfill us. We long for a deeper relationship with You, a more profound understanding of Your will, and a greater infilling of Your Holy Spirit. May our souls yearn for You like a dry land yearns for rain. Lord, fill us with Your Spirit and empower us to live lives that please You and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name 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 Patri**

"Glory to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Philip

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Ladies Quartet

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Doris Akers

Sermon

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

I had a special aunt who lived in Philadelphia. Her name was Helen. I've mentioned her previously in one of my sermons. Each year at Christmas she would send me a wonderful present when I was growing up. I always looked forward with eager anticipation for the arrival of her gifts. They were always first class, nothing shoddy or cheap. They were also chosen with a boy my age clearly in mind. I can almost imagine her speaking to a salesperson in a large department store and saying, "My nephew is ten years of age. Help me to pick out just the right Christmas gift for him." In fact, one of her gifts, a shuffleboard and bowling game, two feet wide and five feet long, (a foot is singular) was so beloved that I kept it until I was a young adult.

In many respects, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are like Aunt Helen's Christmas presents. They are never cheap or inexpensive and they are always given with the recipient clearly in mind. Years ago the church where I served as pastor offered our members an opportunity to take a "Spiritual Gifts Inventory." Filling out that inventory would help them to identify the spiritual gifts that God had given them. I was frequently amazed by the results. Many times the spiritual gifts identified in the inventory reflected interests and abilities that were already evident in a person's life. For example, one lady was thrilled to discover that she had the gift of hospitality. She was already the kind of person who liked to greet people and make them feel at home when they visited the church. Knowing that God had blessed her with the gift of hospitality affirmed and enhanced her desire to practice this important ministry in the life of our church.

So let's take a look this morning at the various gifts of the Spirit that God has bestowed upon His people. However, before we do, there are some important Scriptural principles that we need to keep in mind.

- **Spiritual gifts are supernatural.** They come from God. They are above and beyond the gifts and talents with which we were born or have developed throughout our lifetimes. Frequently they match up with our natural tendencies and desires but not always. They exceed what we would normally be capable of doing.
- **Spiritual gifts are diverse.** There are a vast multitude of spiritual gifts. No one gets all of them. They are distributed to each of us individually, tailored to fit us perfectly like a fine suit of clothes. The goal is to help us look and do and be our best as we seek to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.
- **Spiritual gifts are sometimes transitory.** They can appear and disappear according to the need which they address. Some people receive a spiritual gift that becomes an intrinsic part of their lives. It endures for a lifetime. Other gifts are given for a specific purpose, like a special tool that a mechanic acquires to fix a difficult repair.
- **Spiritual gifts are given for the common good.** They are not given to enhance the reputation of the person to whom they are given. They are given so that people can be blessed as the gifts of the Spirit are utilized in their behalf. When Spiritual gifts are misused, they can be withdrawn, accompanied with divine judgement for the person who abused them.

With these basic principles clearly in mind, let's now turn our attention to gifts that the Spirit of God has bestowed upon His people. Like the postman who delivered those Christmas presents to our home when I was a youngster, the Holy Spirit delivers a wide variety of gifts into the hearts and lives of His people. There are three places within the New Testament where these gifts are listed. The most detailed one is found in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, the passage of Scripture that was read this morning. A second listing is found in Ephesians 4:7-13, Paul's letter to the Christians living in Ephesus. The last is found in 1 Peter 4:10-11, a letter that he sent to believers in Asia Minor, modern day Turkey. When you put all of them together, it's quite a lengthy listing, with meanings that might be hard to fathom at first glance. Follow along with the insert that has been provided in today's bulletin. Be assured, however, that this is a very brief summary of the gifts of the Spirit. It would be easy to devote an entire sermon to each one of them. Let's begin with 1 Corinthians, then move on to Ephesians and conclude with 1 Peter:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- **Wisdom**—figuring out the truth of a matter like Solomon did when two women each claimed that they were the mother of the same child. When Solomon awarded the child to the rightful mother, the people of Israel held the king in awe, "because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice. (1 Kings 3:16-28).

- **Knowledge**—receiving information from God that would otherwise be unknown like when Elisha the prophet knew the plans of Israel's enemies even when they were a carefully guarded secret (2 Kings 6:8-12).
- **Faith**—trusting in the Lord and what He can accomplish even when others are doubtful and even hostile. The followers of Christ asked God to empower them to proclaim the Gospel and perform signs and wonders even in the face of fierce persecution (Acts 4:23-31).
- **Healing**—restoring a person's health when they are sick. Peter healed the crippled beggar on his way to the temple in Jerusalem (Acts 3:1-10).
- **Miraculous Power**—doing something that would otherwise be impossible. The message of God's salvation in Christ Jesus was confirmed when Paul and Barnabas were able to perform miraculous signs and wonders during their first missionary journey (Acts 14:1-3).
- **Prophecy**—proclaiming a message that has been given to a person by God, often describing events that will take place in the future. Agabus, a prophet from Jerusalem predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world (Acts 11:27-30).
- **Discernment**—being able to know the mind and heart of God regarding an important issue. James, the chief elder of the church in Jerusalem, makes a decision to open the door to Gentiles who want to become Christians (Acts 15:12-21).
- **Speaking in Tongues**—verbalizing in exuberant speech that which may appear to be unintelligible to others. The followers of Christ responded in joyful ecstasy to the infilling of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Later, a Roman centurion and his household also received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues (Acts 10:44-48).
- **Interpretation of Tongues**—comprehending the speech of those who are praising God in response to being filled with the Holy Spirit. Jewish pilgrims who loved the Lord were able to understand what the followers of Christ were proclaiming on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:5-12).

Ephesians 4:7-13

- **Apostleship**—being sent as a missionary to a place where people have not heard about Jesus. Paul and Barnabas were sent on their first missionary journey by the church in Antioch (Acts 13:1-3).
- **Prophecy**—delivering a message from God. The prophet Agabus warned Paul that he would be arrested if he goes to Jerusalem (Acts 21:10-11).
- **Evangelism**—sharing the plan of God's salvation with another person. Philip who was a deacon in the early church led an Ethiopian treasurer to the Lord on the Road to Gaza (Acts 8:26-40).
- **Pastoral Care**—ministering to the needs of God's people. Dorcas was so beloved because of what she did for those who were poor that by the power of God Peter raised her from the dead (Acts 9:36-42).
- **Teaching**—instructing people in the ways of the Lord. Priscilla and Aquilla helped a new convert by the name of Apollos to come to a better understanding of the Christian way of life (Acts 18:24-26).

1 Peter 4:10-11

- **Speaking**—telling others about Jesus. Stephen, one of the deacons in the church at Jerusalem was not afraid to talk to others about Jesus, even if it endangered his life (Acts 6:8-10).
- **Serving**—assisting others who need a helping hand. Lydia who was a cloth merchant opened her home to Paul and Silas when they visited the city of Philippi (Acts 16:11-15).

When the gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed along with the kinds of people who were the recipients of these gifts in the Bible, several things become clearly evident. First, the people who received these gifts were just ordinary folks like you and me. Yes, I know that people like Paul, David and Solomon have always been held in high regard. After all, Paul was a Jewish scholar before he became a Christian and of course, there are prophets and kings in the listing of those whose lives were blessed by the Holy Spirit. But if you look at the rest of the people who were filled with the Spirit of God, they were fishermen, real estate brokers, teachers, seamstresses and a whole host of unnamed individuals. They were everyday folks that God blessed in an extraordinary way. As Paul stated in his letter to the Ephesians, they were gifted by the Holy Spirit so that both them and their churches would more nearly reflect the nature and character of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13). What He did for them, He can do for us, right here and right now in the twenty-first century.

Here's something else you need to know. Those who were filled with God's Spirit were motivated by the Lord to do extraordinary things, not for themselves so that they could receive recognition and praise, but for others. Take Barnabas for example, Paul's traveling companion on that first missionary journey. Do you know what he did for a living before he became a missionary? He bought and sold properties. He was a real estate agent. When a need arose to provide assistance for those new Christians who had nowhere to live and nothing to eat, he sold his properties and used the money to care for them. The same was true of Dorcas, the Christian woman who sewed garments for the poor. When she died, they lined the room in which her body was placed with the dresses that she had sewn for them as a testimony of gratitude.

Finally, on each and every occasion when people were filled with the Spirit of God, they were drawn to the Lord. Over and over again the Scriptures tell us that people were saved and brought into the Kingdom of God because they saw what God was doing through the lives of His people. You've heard this saying more than once. "Tell me what you believe. I'll show you what I believe by what I do." Those Spirit filled people in both the Old and New Testament showed others that God was real through the way in which His presence was manifested in their lives.

All of this brings me to one concluding illustration that I read in a recent newsletter from Samaritan's Purse. It's about an eleven year old girl named Jaci. When she was six, she learned about Operation Christmas Child and set up a hot chocolate stand in her front yard to raise funds for one Christmas shoe box. The next year she added lemonade and raised funds for ten shoe boxes. Then prompted by the Holy Spirit she decided to start a flower garden to raise money for Operation Christmas Child. Working in the garden that her parents helped her build brought her closer to God. It became her sanctuary for prayer. She and her two sisters became known as the Flower Sisters. Arranging bouquets and selling them out of her grandfather's pickup they raised \$4000.00 last year. Then in 2023 Jaci heard about the Children's Heart Project that is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. She began splitting the proceeds from her flower ministry between these two charitable opportunities and in 2024 was invited to meet two young patients from Mongolia who came to the United States for heart surgery. Not only were the surgeries successful, but both of the mothers who accompanied their children accepted Christ as their Savior with the stated intention of taking their new found faith back to their families and communities in Mongolia.

Now, what do you think? Has Jaci been blessed and empowered by the Holy Spirit? Have several of the gifts of the Holy Spirit been imparted into her life so that she can do things far beyond what would normally be possible for an eleven year old girl? If that is so, just imagine what the Holy Spirit might be able to do in our lives and in the life of our church. Come Holy Spirit and gift us with Your power and Your presence.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Holy Spirit Come"

Tommy Walker

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, who has revealed His love and kindness to us and in His mercy saved us, not for any good deed of our own. but because He is merciful.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who gave Himself up for us to free us from our sin, and set us apart for Himself - a people eager to do good.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us generously through Christ our Savior, so that justified by grace we might become heirs with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father God, thank You for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that by Your grace You have given to us, not for our glory, but for the building up of Your church and as a witness to the world of Your great love. May we always be mindful of the incredible privilege of carrying these gifts within us and may we faithfully steward them for the advancement of Your kingdom. Bless our offerings today 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.

Hymn

"There Are Many Ways of Sharing"

Carolyn Gillette

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

Fanfare and Trumpet tune on "Nettleton" Lasky

The flowers are given to the Glory of God

by Kathy and David Grigg

Holy Spirit Sermon Series

The final sermon in this series of messages, "The Fruit of the Spirit," will be presented next Sunday, July 27.

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.

July 2025

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

Joys- July 20th

Joy- Gerald DeWitt- wonderful trip with Nick

Joy- Larry Compter- fell, thankfully no injuries

Concerns- July 20th

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

Travel mercies

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

Blair: Dr. Cohen stroke

Bill Dwyer complications from knee surgery

Tonya- daughter-in-law, broke leg

Those affected by floods

Brunot: Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

Jim's mother fell

Cindy's brother- health issues

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission, pneumonia

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, abandoned

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

Harold Jackson- health issues

Foster: Lynn (sister-in-law) dementia

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

Goode: Prayers for goals with Christmas boxes

Sandra Grover- breast cancer

Heber Himmelwright was just diagnosed with Guillain–Barré

Lindsey Blanton is battling leukemia again.

Goodman: Grandson traveling to Brazil for mission work

Grigg: Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer, doing well

Harris: Jim, back pain

Judy- sister-in-law has cancer

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

Neal: bladder cancer, health issues, in Lynchburg hospital

Nichols; Gracie Murphree blood pressure, multiple strokes

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues

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

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 20th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Wednesday: End Times Seminar 5 pm

Sunday: July 27th

10 am Worship

July Birthdays

Nancy Van Dyke - 22

Jay Gould – 31

August Birthdays

Fred Scheurer- 2

Tinkie Avery -10

Michelle Goode- 18

Ann Fowler-27

William Hopkins-29

Donna Henderson- 31

August Anniversaries

John & Betty Salley- 2

Ron & Barbara Saunders - 6

Barry & Tricia Schubert -7

Lester & Helen Heinrich -10

David & Donna Henderson- 17

BCM needs

Towels

wash clothes

Hand towels

all sizes of sheets

silverware

Groceries

End Times Seminar

During the remaining Wednesdays in July we will be taking a look at the book of Revelation in the New Testament. We will meet at 5:00 pm.

BPC Financial Snapshot – June 2025

General Operations Income

Forecast Actual YTD

Ahead/(Behind)

\$17,650 \$12,598 (\$9808)

General Operations Expense

Budget Actual YTD

(Over)/Under

\$11,610 \$9,846 \$53,323