

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

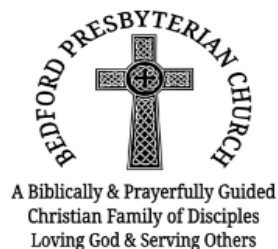


Week of July 27, 2025

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

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

arr: Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

All: Against such things there is no law.

One: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

All: Gracious Lord, it is with thanksgiving and with praise that we enter Your courts today. We celebrate Your promises to us and we hunger to be filled afresh with Your Holy Spirit so that we may bear the fruit that brings glory to Your great name.

Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Hymn 71

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen short of Your glory, especially in exhibiting the fruit of Your Spirit. We have not loved as You have loved, nor have we shown the joy and peace that comes from Your presence. We have been impatient, unkind, and unfaithful. Our words and actions have not always reflected Your gentleness, and we have often lacked self-control. Forgive us. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may bear the kind of fruit that will make us a blessing to others and a reflection of Your love in the world. 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

Galatians 5: 16-25

Praise Song

"The Fruit Song"

Rick Muchow

Sermon

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

What kind of fruit is your favorite? Let's take a survey. Raise your hands when I mention the kind of fruit that is your all-time favorite. How many of you really prefer apples above any other kind of fruit? How about peaches? It's that time of year when you can purchase tree ripened peaches right here in Bedford County. Do we have any fans of blueberries or strawberries? When I was growing up you could go out into the strawberry fields of Hampton Roads and pick and eat strawberries to your heart's content. How about oranges and grapefruits? Residents of Florida would probably put them high up on the list. Or how about some of those kinds of fruit that don't receive a lot of attention like raspberries, plums or apricots? Then, of course, there's grapes. Some of them grow wild here in the mountains. How many of you love grapes, especially when they are squeezed and put into a bottle? There's one more fruit that I would like to mention. It was my father-in-law's all-time favorite. He even planted a tree in his back yard so that he could harvest its fruit. Can anyone guess what it was? My father-in-law loved figs. He loved them when

they were fresh off the tree and when they were preserved for the future. In fact, he loved them so much that he and a mockingbird came to blows over who was going to eat those figs. For you see, the mockingbird had also acquired a taste for figs. It would peck at one ripe fig and then move on to the next one until all of them were ruined.

Perhaps Paul was also thinking about fruit when he told the Galatians to partake of the Fruit of the Spirit. What kind of fruit was he talking about? He was talking about the kind of fruit that improves and blesses our lives. However, without actually identifying another kind of fruit that is detrimental to our well-being, I think he also had that in mind when he spoke of humanity's sinful nature. It would be like standing in an orchard and choosing between two kinds of fruit, one which is beneficial and one which is harmful. In the verses which were read this morning, I believe that Paul was speaking about two kinds of fruit and the outcomes, the consequences which they produce. So let's take a look at each one and see if we can come to a better understanding of what happens when people eat the fruit of the sinful nature and when they eat the fruit of the Spirit.

Paul stated that partaking of the fruit of the sinful nature produced some rather unpleasant outcomes. Like a doctor examining a patient suffering from a dreaded disease, these people were exhibiting character traits and behaviors that would destroy not only their own health and well-being, but the health and well-being of everyone around them. He listed the consequences of consuming this sinful way of life: "sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like" (Galatians 5:19-21). There is nothing here that is either praiseworthy or beneficial. Nevertheless, we all know of people who live this kind of life and to be perfectly honest there may have been times in our own lives when we lived that way as well. Why? Because we have a temper, the devil, who promises immediate gratification for our desires and passions without mentioning the long-term consequences. Remember what happened to Snow White in that children's story? When the evil queen gave a delicious, beautiful looking apple to Snow White, she did not realize what would happen when she ate it. The same is true for us.

Years ago I was asked to visit the pediatric floor of a children's hospital. When I walked into the room, I saw a father and a mother sitting beside the bed of a child who was obviously quite ill. Sitting down, I spoke with the family, and this is what I discovered. The child was suffering from an overdose of an illegal drug that she had mistakenly consumed. The father and mother were both suffering from AIDS and to make matters worse the wife was pregnant. The doctors had tested the prenatal child and that child was also infected with AIDS, having contracted it from the mother. Those two adults had eaten of the fruit of a sinful way of life and it was literally killing them and their children. Paul was correct when he said, "I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God". (Galatians 5:21).

Fortunately, we don't have to eat that kind of fruit. There is another choice readily available, the fruit of the Spirit. Notice that I did not use the plural form of the word. We are not talking about the fruits of the Spirit, like purchasing apples and bananas in a grocery store. We are talking about one kind of fruit which produces a multitude of positive outcomes when we eat it. Once consumed, it nourishes those character traits and dispositions which make us a better person, not only in terms of our own lives, but the impact that we have upon the lives of others. Here's Paul's listing, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Now we could spend a great deal of time analyzing each of these character traits of the Spirit-filled life. But to be perfectly honest, for the most part they are self-evident. In fact, they are vividly portrayed in the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. So let's move on to consider a couple of other things in this passage of Scripture.

- With regards to the fruit of the Spirit, we can have as much as we want. Paul reminds us, “Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:23). In fact, the more we consume the better we become and the better the world around us becomes. A life that is filled with love, joy and peace and all of the other attributes of the fruit of the Spirit is a blessing to one and all.
- With regards to those who chose to imbibe the fruit of the sinful nature, there may be some momentary pleasure, but the consequences are not good for us or for others. We have chosen a destructive way of life that places us outside of God’s law, the way in which He wants us to treat one another. Law breakers cause a lot of harm. We hear about them every day on the evening news and eventually all of them pay a price for their crimes, one way or the other.
- Here’s something else that we need to think about. There is a constant battle going on inside of us between the Spirit filled life and a life driven by sinful desires and temptations. It’s like having an angel whispering into one ear and a little devil whispering into the other. Both the angel and the devil want us to follow their advice. Sometimes, even as Christians, we allow our sinful nature to lead us astray. Paul found that to be true even in his own life. He wrote, “For what I do is not the good I want to do, no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep doing” (Romans 7:19).

So how can we escape this dilemma? How can we bring an end to the internal conflict that rages within us? How can we keep our passions and desires from getting the upper hand in our lives? How can we stop gobbling up the fruit of a sinful way of life and instead replace it with the fruit of the Spirit? Those are some vitally important questions that deserve an answer.

Personally, I believe that Jesus has provided us with an answer in the Gospel of John. This is what He said, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything that I have said to you” (John 14:26). In other words we have a companion who can point us in the right direction, even sometimes when we don’t want to go there. Remember when you were a child sitting in a grocery cart as Mom wheeled you down the aisles between the shelves of groceries? Remember when you passed the shelf holding the candy bars and said, “I want one of those,” pointing to a great big candy bar? Remember how Mom responded to your request. She said, “No, that would not be good for you. There’s a better choice over there.” Wheeling you away from the candy, she took you to the produce department where there were lots of apples and oranges and other kinds of fruit. She said to you, “Choose one of these and it will help you to grow up and be big and strong.”

Like our moms in the grocery store, the Holy Spirit can help us to select the fruit of the Spirit. That deep down inner voice, sometimes referred to as our conscience, will guide us in the right direction. All we have to do is listen for His voice and then decide to follow His advice. Finally, one last thought. When you’re shopping at the grocery store, be sure to spend more time in the produce department than where the candy bars are located.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Medley

“I Come to You with Spirt Song”

Hymn 352

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father God, we come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit and the fruit that He produces in our lives. May our giving demonstrate the fruit of generosity and may it reflect Your lavish love for us all. 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

"For Freedom, Christ Has Set Us Free"

Gillette

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on "Ellacombe"

Jason D. Payne

The flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Kathy and David Grigg

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 27th

Joy- Ellen, thanks the ladies for their song

Concerns- July 27th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Joy (wife) fell prayers for healing

Barnes: Shannon Sledd (niece) cancer uterus

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

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

Prayers for neighbors that lost house due to fire

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.

Undisclosed prayer request

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
Chief Hops not doing well

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 27th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Wednesday: End Times Seminar 5 pm

Sunday: August 3rd

10 am Worship

Communion

July Birthdays

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

We will conclude our End Times Seminar this coming Wednesday at 5:00 pm. After we examine the Second Division of the book of Revelation, we will enjoy dinner together in a time of heartfelt fellowship.

Arrival of Our New Pastor

Ben and Tiffany Banner and their two children will be leaving from California for Bedford around August 4th. They will be driving across the country, expecting to arrive at some point during the second week in August. Please pray that they will have a safe and enjoyable trip as they head our way. We will be calling on our church family to help them feel right at home. Further details will be shared as the time of their arrival approaches.

Nursery & Children's Church

A Nursery is available for children from birth-age 5. Children's Church is provided for children in kindergarten through grade 3.