

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

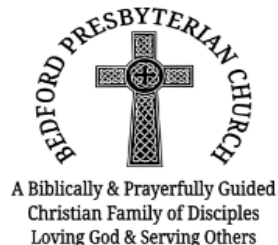


Week of August 17, 2025

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 Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

arr: Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We gather together, empowered by the Risen Christ to worship and encounter the Holy One.

All: We trust that the infinite love of God will move us beyond our places of doubt and fear and into a world where our witness points to the Good News.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. We rejoice that you are constantly yearning to be in a deeper relationship with us.

All: May those who come with doubts, encounter you in profound ways.

One: May those who come with confidence, encounter you in profound ways.

All: And may we all be empowered to bear witness to the light of the world. Amen.

Hymn

"We Come, O Christ to You"

Hymn 110

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

Merciful God, we come before You confessing our shortcomings and sins. We confess that we have not always been diligent in studying and understanding your Word, the truth You have entrusted to us. We have failed to rightly divide it, to apply it to our lives and to live in a way that reflects its power and truth. We have not always been approved workmen and we are ashamed of those times when we have not represented You well. Forgive us, Lord, for these failures. Help us to know You more and to walk in Your ways so that we might be a light to those around us. 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

2 Timothy 2:14-19

Hymn

"You're Worthy of My Praise"

Hymn 648

Sermon

Students in the School of Christianity

When I was in elementary school, I looked forward to summer vacation. It couldn't come soon enough. No more books to study, no more homework, no more long rides on the school bus. Summer vacation meant freedom, freedom to play and do whatever you wanted to do all day long. However, as August approached, the realization began to dawn that soon summer vacation would be over. Once again I would be carrying a bag full of books back and forth to school. Once again there would be homework and tests. Once again I would be a student. It was a sobering thought that I tried to disregard until that day finally arrived when I boarded the big yellow school bus on the Tuesday after Labor Day.

School starts a little earlier these days. Here in Bedford County it started last week on August 13th. I'm sure that a lot of students were excited, looking forward to seeing their friends and meeting their new teachers. For some, however, I suspect their feelings about the upcoming school year may have been somewhat less enthusiastic. They may have been like the brother who addressed his younger sibling on the first day of school. Speaking to his brother who was entering the first grade he said, "When you get to school, never let the teacher know that you know how to spell 'cat,' even if you don't know how to spell it. Because once they teach you to spell 'cat,' there's just no end to it."

The same might also be said of the Christian faith. Once you become a Christian and start going to church, there's just no end to it. That older brother was correct. Being a student in the school of Christianity is a lifelong process, at least it should be. Each and every day there's something new for us to learn as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are His students and He is our instructor. He is the one who wants to teach us how to live the Christian way of life. The lessons may be difficult and challenging at times, but they are essential if we want to grow in Christ, to become more like our Lord and Savior.

Now, let's be honest for a moment. Think back to your days in school--elementary, high school and perhaps beyond. I bet there were teachers along the way you really admired. You may even be able to remember them by name. Did they make a difference in who you are today? Did they shape and mold your life in ways that you came to appreciate years later? Did they not only provide you with valuable information, but also with moral values and character traits that have transformed your life? The same is true when we look through the pages of the New Testament. For example, consider Saint Paul's relationship with Timothy. Paul met Timothy during his second missionary journey. Timothy was a young Christian, the son of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He had come to faith in Christ and was well spoken of by the leaders of two churches in Asia Minor. So Paul took him under his wings so to speak and became his instructor. In fact, he looked upon Timothy as his spiritual son, telling the Christians in Corinth, "For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church" (1 Corinthians 4:17).

Where did Timothy's knowledge and expertise come from? How did he become such a proficient student of Christianity that Paul was willing to send him out on his own to the church in Corinth? His leadership and training were the result of his relationship with Paul. In fact, two of Paul's letters in the New Testament were specifically addressed to Timothy. In them he was providing spiritual insights and encouragement such as the often-quoted verse in the passage of Scripture that was read this morning. Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly divining the Word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Looking back into the Gospels, the same was true with regards to Jesus' relationship with His disciples. For three years He worked with them to prepare them for what they would be doing after His departure into heaven. So this morning let's spend a few moments looking at three key principles that are essential if we want to be good students in the school of Christianity, if we want to be the kind of disciples that Jesus would be proud of. Each of these principles begin with the letter "m." They are **motivation**, **mentorship** and **mission**.

Do you remember that account in the Gospels when Jesus said to Peter, James and John, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"? Those three men were fishermen. That was their trade. Two of them worked with their father catching fish in the Sea of Galilee. But after the miraculous catch of fish when Jesus told them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat, they no longer wanted to be fishermen. They had received a higher calling. They were **motivated** by an overwhelming desire to become Jesus' disciples, to follow after Him. That account reminds me of the minister of education that served in the church where I grew up. He was fantastic, especially when it came to leading the Vacation Bible Schools that we had each summer. One day he told me a little bit about himself. He had

been a very successful insurance executive but came to the realization that God had other plans for him. Motivated by God's calling upon his life, he stepped aside from secular employment, sold his home and moved his family to a theological seminary where he was trained to be a minister. While we may not be motivated to make a decision which is quite so momentous, the fact of the matter is, we cannot become a successful student of Christ until we sense His call upon our lives, to follow Him and serve Him with all of our hearts.

Here's that second word that begins with the letter "m." It's **mentorship**. Growing up in Hampton Roads, I became aware of the fact that shipbuilding is a very important industry in that region of Virginia. I also became aware of the fact that those who wanted to work in one of the shipyards had an opportunity to secure a top paying job. It involved attending and graduating from a shipyard apprentice school. Those schools were every bit as challenging as going to a major university. In fact, they may have been even more challenging. Here's why. There was not only classroom instruction where students were taught the basics of shipbuilding. Afterwards there was on the job training. The students, working under the guidance of a mentor, actually went to work on the various ships that were being built or repaired, learning hands-on skills on how to become proficient in their calling. Jesus took that same approach with His disciples. He was their mentor. He taught them about the kingdom of God and then He sent them out to put into practice what they had learned. In chapter six of the Gospel of Mark we are told that after a period of training and instruction, Jesus sent them out to do the same things that He did. They were to heal the sick, preach the Gospel and defeat the forces of evil. Unfortunately modern-day church life has not been very good at mentoring, preparing God's people to do the work of the kingdom of heaven.

The last word is **mission**. Jesus' last words before He ascended into heaven were to go into all the world and make disciples, to do the same thing for others that He had done for them. The same is true for us today. Our job is to enroll new students in the school of Christianity. Our job is to reach out to those who are not Christians. Our job is to grow the kingdom of God. What happens to a school when it fails to enroll new students? Eventually it closes. What happens to a church that does not enlist new disciples? It dies. All across America churches are closing their doors because they have forgotten why they were created. Churches are not spiritual social clubs. They are first aid stations saving the lives of those who have been ravaged by sin. Imagine for a moment a well-trained doctor who has never seen a patient or a farmer who has attended an agriculture university but never planted a crop. Churches which fail to fulfill the mission which Christ has entrusted into their care are just as foolish.

Yes, it's the beginning of another school year. Likewise, right here at Bedford Presbyterian Church we'll soon be getting off to a brand-new start as well. So it might be good for us to also begin thinking of ourselves as students, students in the school of Christianity. And if we desire to be good students in the school of Christianity, there are three things we need to keep in mind. We will need to be **motivated** by a sincere desire to make our teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ, proud of us. We will need to be **mentored**, learning how to live the Christian way of life by studying God's Word and listening to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Finally, we need to remember that we have a **mission**, reaching out to those who do not know Christ and inviting them to also become students in the school of Christianity.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"I Give You My Heart"

Reuben Morgan

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

As we present our offerings today, we are reminded of Your great love which is boundless and is beyond measure. Help us to reflect Your love in all that we do, especially in our giving. May these gifts be used to spread Your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank You for Your love that never fails us. 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

"O Lord, You Called Disciples"

Carolyn Gillette

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on "Lancashire"

Jason D. Payne

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Women's Bible Study, 10 am</i>
17 <i>10 am Worship Session</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Worship Welcome Pastor Aloha Sunday</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>10 am Worship</i>						

Concerns- August 17th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Joy (wife) fell prayers for healing

Barnes: Shannon Sledd (niece) cancer uterus

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jay's grandniece, husband pancreatic cancer

Niece upcoming surgery

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) doing better

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues

Bob (friend) doing better

Laurie: mother has cancer

Michael (brother) fell broken lumbar

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

Sally- health issues

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

Friends cousin- serious car accident, injured eye

Foster: Lynn (sister-in-law) dementia

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: son-in-law health issues

Harris: Jim, back pain

Judy- sister-in-law has cancer

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Hopkins: son-in-law health issues

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, Oakwood- 225

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

Marcus Walker (Sonya's brother) prostate cancer

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 August 17th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Session

Sunday: August 24th
10 am Worship
Aloha Sunday
Potluck

August Birthdays

Michelle Goode- 18
Ann Fowler-27
William Hopkins-29
Donna Henderson- 31

August Anniversaries

David & Donna Henderson- 17

BCM needs

Towels
wash clothes
Hand towels
all sizes of sheets
silverware
Groceries

Aloha Sunday!!!

On Sunday, August 24th, we will be recognizing the ministers who serve our church family. It will be a special celebration honoring Ben Banner and his family as he begins his ministry with our congregation. It will also be an opportunity to express our appreciation to Bill Rutledge for his continued leadership of the music ministry of our church and to Philip Parker who has been our interim pastor during the past two years. There will be a potluck luncheon after the service. So wear your Hawaiian shirt and bring your favorite Hawaiian dishes along with other home cooked favorites (no desserts) as we celebrate with a great big welcoming "Aloha."

Welcoming Our New Pastor

This morning we are welcoming our new pastor, Ben Banner, and his family. Ben and Tiffany and their two children, Blaise and Silas, will be worshipping with us on Sunday morning. They arrived this past week and are getting settled in their new home in Bedford. Please extend a warm welcome greeting them after the service at the front of the church.

Students in the School of Christianity

Students throughout Bedford County started the fall semester of school this past week. They met new teachers and classmates and began to settle into a new year of learning. What they are experiencing is a reminder that as Christians we too are students, students in the school of Christianity. This morning we will discover that our education as God's people involves three key ingredients—motivation, mentorship and mission.