



BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2019

e-mail: adminassist@bedfordpresbyva.org
telephone: (540) 586-5284
fax: (540) 586-5284



D-Day, June 6, 1944 and the Prayer Services in the churches of Bedford



According to the Thursday, June 8, 1944, Bedford Democrat Newspaper, on the previous Tuesday, D-Day, by prior arrangement with the Bedford Ministerial Association and the town's Civil Defense Coordinator, the churches in town were opened all day for personal prayer. At 8 pm that evening, after President Roosevelt had announced the Normandy invasion, church bells rang and people gathered together for a Union Service for peace and protection of their soldiers. Most of the townspeople came to Bedford Presbyterian Church for a service led by four of the town's clergy: Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist and Disciples of Christ. The Bedford Democrat also reported that "*services were held at Washington Street Baptist Church for the combined congregations of the colored people at the same hour.*"

It is assumed that a similar service was held at the original St. Mary's Catholic Church on South Bridge Street, but if so, neither the Bedford Democrat nor the Bedford Bulletin reported on that event.

On this 75th anniversary of D-Day, the churches in Bedford would like to commemorate that evening by once again coming together in a Union Service praying for peace, but this time with all Christians together, black and white, Catholic and Protestant, together in one body of Christ.

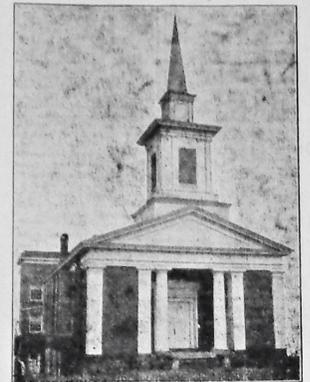
On Thursday evening, June 6, 2019, the bells in town will ring once again calling people together for a 7 pm Union Prayer Service at Bedford Presbyterian Church. The service will feature prayers for peace, safety and spiritual revival in our homes, schools, communities, nation and all the nations of the world. It will also lift up prayers for our military, police, first responders and government officials. This service will be led by:

Rev. John Salley - Bedford Presbyterian Church, Rev. David Walton - Bedford Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Rick Ecklund - Main Street United Methodist Church, Rev. David Henderson - Bedford Baptist Church, Rev. Wilson Brown - St. John's Episcopal Church, Rev. Henry Henderson - Washington Street Baptist Church, and Fr. Salvadore Añonuevo - Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church.

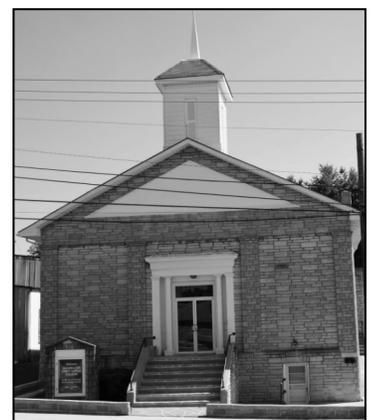
It was mid-July before the telegrams began arriving in the office at Green's Drug Store announcing that so many of Bedford's soldiers had been killed on the beaches of Normandy. Boys on bicycles delivered notes to nearby homes while the town's taxi driver took telegrams to the outlying farms.

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*Church Built In 1844
Celebrates Its Centennial*



Bedford Presbyterian Church



Washington St. Baptist Church

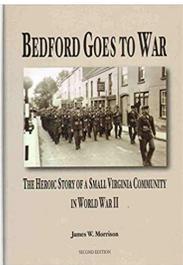
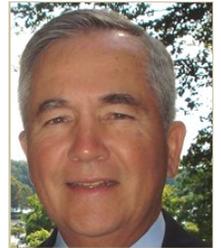


Original St. Mary's Catholic Church on S. Bridge St.

With so many telegrams arriving at once, many of the families who had not yet heard any news came into town and let Green's Drug store know that they would be sitting across the street in the Bedford Presbyterian Church. We do not know how many days the families sat waiting in our sanctuary for news, but many years thereafter on the anniversary of D-Day they would once again come together in our sanctuary to remember and mutually grieve for their lost soldiers.

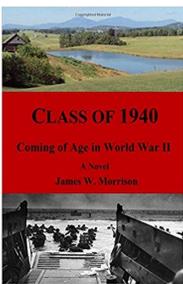
On D-Day, June 6, 2019, story boards and monitors will display scenes from the war years and some of the MIA/KIA telegrams received by the families. You are welcome to come and reflect about wars gone by, so many wars yet ongoing and once again pray for world peace. At 7 pm, that evening, join us as we gather again to pray for peace and protection for our loved ones.

On **Saturday, June 1st, 7pm at Bedford Presbyterian Church**, author **Jim Morrison** will speak on life, service and sacrifice for those living in Bedford County during the fateful days of World War II. This will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall where he will answer further questions and autograph his books which will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be served.



Jim is the author of ***Bedford Goes to War***, an authoritative documentary of this county during the war years and ***Class of 1940***, a fictional account of one family of veterans who lived here.

From a population of 30,000, some 4,000 men and women served in the military. Some 50 fought in the Normandy Invasion. Twenty Bedford men were killed in action on D-Day - nineteen of them in the 116th Infantry's Company A, which had been a National Guard unit in Bedford. The county is believed to have lost more men per capita on D-Day than any other community in America.



As tragic as D-Day was for Bedford, its' sacrifice throughout the entirety of the war was far greater. Bedford men fought and died on the ground, in the air and at sea in all major theaters. Over 140 were killed or died, many more were wounded and over 20 spent time in POW camps.

On the home front, citizens produced war material and food, prepared for civil defense, bought war bonds, contributed to the Red Cross and USO, restricted consumption, salvaged scarce materials, grew Victory Gardens, prepared surgical dressings for the military and wrote to their loved ones in the service.

Bedford has honored and memorialized those who fought and died on D-Day. It also proudly hosts the National D-Day Memorial. ***Bedford Goes to War*** fills in the rest of the story with what happened during the war years in Bedford County; both to those who served in the military and those who remained on the home front.

On **Thursday, June 6th**, Bedford Presbyterian Church will be open from **9 am to 6 pm** in memory of those who, in the days immediately following the Normandy invasion, waited in our sanctuary praying they didn't receive sad news of their loved ones (MIA or KIA telegrams.) A **Union Service of Prayer** for world peace led by seven of Bedford's pastors will begin at **7 pm** that evening to pray for our nation, families, military, police and first responders.

CLERK'S CORNER
2019 MAY



- Special thanks to John and Sonya Smith, who allowed Session and Deacons to hold a retreat at their vacation home.
- Our meeting began with a challenge from Bill Rutledge- pray instead of just talking about praying.
Membership stands at 132.
- Jay Gould was our commissioner for the May 4, 2019 Presbytery meeting.
- Session passed a motion to agree to Presbytery's request for \$100 to buy two water filters for third world countries. See newsletter article for more information and the chance for individuals to purchase additional filters.
- Published author in our midst! Look for John Salley's articles on D-Day and on Jim Morrison in the Bedford Bulletin.
- Come and get 'em! A box at of hymnals at the back of the sanctuary are for congregants to take.
- The May 5th Women of the Church celebration drew 82 people to the morning service, including Joyce Abbott Robertson.
- About half of the attendees of the Churchmen concert were non-members. With strong tickets sales, the event came just short of breaking even.
- The best way to get ready- starting three weeks before the September revival, prayer meetings will be held in people's homes.
- **D-Day activities** will be advertised in radio ads. Jim Morrison will speak on June 1. On D-Day, the church will be open from 9 to 6 for prayer. A service will be held at 7:00 pm, with seven local ministers participating.
- Keep celebrating! **Anniversary plates** will be sold for \$35. An order sheet will be available until Homecoming on October 6.
- Plan to come to the meeting presenting information on how churches can support foster care. This will be held on Thursday, June 13 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Want a chance to be in the outdoors? Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn.
- What will they do??? Youth Sunday will be on May 26. The youth are handling the entire service.
- Remember: in the fall, Children's Church will resume and the *Whole Story* will begin.
- Motion from committee to hold a summer Bible study using *Parables* by John MacArthur was **approved**. See Tricia Schubert if you would like to order a book for \$12.
- Don't worry! Something More Bible study will continue to meet this summer.
- **MOPS** (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) needs child caregivers for their June 3 meeting.
Session reviewed some of the many projects which have improved our church building.

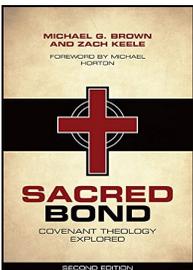
The Winston Chapman Memorial Black Rock Overlook Rhododendron Walk



The Appalachian Trail from Cornelius Creek to Black Rock Overlook is an easy walk and there are few places more beautiful!! On this shady 2.5 mile roundtrip you will walk through tunnels of blooming Rhododendron with a scenic overlook at the turnaround. You can also find Mountain Laurel, mossy creeks and if you look carefully Lady Slippers. This is a walk you don't want to miss! Several years back, Winston and I had decided to make this June walk a tradition. This year we will do so in his memory. **On Saturday, June 15th we will carpool from the Church at 9 am or meet you at the trail entrance by 9:40 (at approximately mile 80.5 on the Parkway – park in the field marked by the 'horse crossing' sign).**

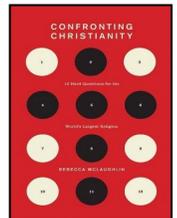


Take and Read



There are two new books in our library that are worth your attention. If you have always wondered what 'covenant' theology was, what makes a covenant different from a contract or why God made so many covenants with Israel and did He make any with us, these questions and more are answered in "**Sacred Bond**," by Michael Brown and Zach Keele. The book is an interesting read and by the time you are finished you will be deeply grateful that Jesus said "*This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood*" (Luke 22:20).

On a completely different note, "**Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion**," by Rebecca McLaughlin, is one of the best and most interesting defenses of both the reality and benefits of the Christian faith I have read in a long time. Christianity is the most widespread global belief system and promises to remain well into the future. For many educated westerners, biblical Christianity is a dangerous idea. Using state-of-the-art research, personal stories and careful biblical study, McLaughlin challenges some of the deepest prejudices and misconceptions that secularist hold against the Christian faith.



The Church and Foster Care



Throughout our Bible, God was very clear in stating His concern for widows and orphans. Today, the Church still carries God's mandate to care for those 'last, least, lost.' As James the brother of Jesus wrote, *Religion that is*

pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world (James 1:27).

If you would like to learn more about how you can help assist, pray for, support, or become a foster parent, **come join us in the Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation by David C. Helfrich, Foster Care Recruiter for Braley & Thompson INC., Forest, Virginia, on Thursday, June 13th at 10 am.**



Bedford Presbyterian's Missions

Every year our church supports various mission oriented programs in our area. We appreciate your support and wanted to let you know the organizations that we are supporting this year along with our missionaries. Ten percent of all funds from BPC are set aside and used to support groups that provide needed services to our community. At this time we are supporting the following charities:

Bedford Christian Ministries
Bedford Pregnancy Center
Cool Spring Presbyterian Camp
Deacons
Massanetta Springs S&O
Lighthouse of Hope (Betty Easter's organization)
Pastor Discretionary Fund
Patrick Henry Family Services
Shepherd's Table
Society of St. Andrews
Support Murphree Missionaries
Rescue Mission

We also support other organizations like Heifer International pass through donations, as well as funding charities through our Five Cents a Meal donations.

As part of Missions, we also help fund the operating cost of 112 Center Street when the rental revenues do not meet the monthly expenses. Non-profit organizations like Narcotics Anonymous, Boy Scouts and Bedford Christian Ministries Free Clinic use this building on a regular basis. The session members are currently working on ways to advertise 112 Center Street as a meeting and events venue to off-set future operating and maintenance cost.

Sincerely,
Linda Benton
Missions Chair



Presbytery Request for Bucket Water Filters

Jay Gould attended the Presbytery meeting along with Rev. Salley and reported that the Presbytery requested that each church help donate bucket water filters to help third world countries provide clean water to their citizens. The bucket water filters are portable and allow people to use water that would otherwise be undrinkable after the filtering process. The bucket water filters are \$50.00 each. If you would like to help us provide a water filter, please make a donation and designate it as bucket water filters. Thanks for your support.

Bedford church to honor pastor's 50 years of service

By Richard Chumney Apr 15, 2019

For nearly half a century the Rev. Henry Alvin Henderson's deep voice has boomed from the pulpit of Washington Street Baptist Church.

Over that time period, Henderson — or the Bishop of Bedford, as he is known informally — has presided over several dozen weddings and officiated even more baptisms.

Henderson has become a staple in the Bedford community and is synonymous with Washington Street. He regularly meets with other congregations in the area and often can be found outside his own church's walls.



"Ministers before me were pretty much just here and they didn't go out to visit with the other churches," he said in a recent interview. "And that was not me. I wanted to fellowship with the other churches."

Since coming to the town in 1969, Henderson has also worked on the forefront of local change in the community as a member of the local NAACP and a leader with the Bedford Voter's League.

In July, Henderson will officially celebrate 50 years as pastor of Washington Street. Church members are now planning anniversary services. His tenure as pastor represents almost a third of the church's entire history.

"He's been with us through so many generations," said June Jackson, a lifelong member of the congregation. "When children are born he christens them, he baptizes them, he marries them and — in the ultimate end — he buries them."

Henderson, now 77, was fresh out of seminary school when he moved from South Carolina to Bedford with his wife, Helen. After a series of visits in the summer of 1969, the church asked him to sign a contract to become Washington Street's 21st pastor.

The job offer was Henderson's first opportunity to pastor a church on his own. He was just 27 years old.

"I was too young," he said. "I had a head full of hair and if you notice now its been rubbed out."

The Bedford community instantly welcomed the young couple, Henderson recalled. Helen soon was offered a job at Big Island Elementary School. It was on the scenic drives along the Blue Ridge from Bedford to Big Island where Henderson, a child of the Deep South, first saw snow.

Washington Street was founded shortly after the Civil War and throughout its more than 150 year history, the iconic church has served as the center of Bedford's black community.

During the civil rights era, the church was the home base for many of the town's activists, a defining characteristic of the church that only strengthened under Henderson's leadership.

Henderson kept the church doors open to local civil rights leaders. In the basement activists would meet and strategize, while upstairs Henderson would preach, according to Robert Carson, the president of the Bedford NAACP.

"Ever since he came, he's been on the battlefield," Carson said.

Today, the Bedford NAACP continues to meet at Washington Street, and the town's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day march ends on the steps of the church.

Henderson has no plans of leaving the church. Even as he enters his sixth decade as Washington Street's pastor, he is eager to expand the church's ministries and now plans to build a larger side entrance for elderly and disabled members of his congregation.

"Retirement is not even in my mind," he said. "I don't know where the years have gone. So I'm here until they roll me out."

June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Lecture by Jim Morrison 7 pm Reception to follow
2 10 am Service Communion Prayer Time	3 Quilters, 6 pm	4 Something More, 4:30 pm	5 Joyful Noise, 6:15 pm Choir, 7 pm	6 D-Day in the Church all day 7 pm service Purl Jam, 7 pm	7 Office closed	8 Bedford Hiking Club, 9am Quilters
9 10 am Service 5¢ a Meal Prayer Time	10 Shepherds' Table Quilters, 6 pm	11 Something More, 4:30 pm	12 Joyful Noise, 6:15 pm Choir, 7 pm	13 David Helfrich, 10 am Purl Jam, 7 pm	14 Office closed	15 MOPS , 10 am
16 Father's Day 10 am Service Prayer Time	17 Quilters, 6 pm	18 Something More, 4:30 pm	19 Joyful Noise, 6:15 pm Choir, 7 pm	20 Purl Jam, 7 pm	21 1st day of summer Office Closed	22
23 10 am Service Prayer Time Session	24 Quilters, 6 pm	25 Something More, 4:30 pm	26 Joyful Noise, 6:15 pm Choir, 7 pm	27 Purl Jam, 7 pm	28 Office Closed	29
30 10 am Service Prayer Time						

112 Center Street

Monday- Scouts 6:30 pm , **Tuesday-** Narcotics Anonymous , 12 pm, **Wednesday-** Narcotics Anonymous , 8 pm

Sundays: Narcotics Anonymous 6 pm



Barnes: Jane (friend)
 Pete Dudding (brother)
 Angie Crouch- (friend)

Blair: James Thorne
 Nick Butler's family
 Katy Neal
 Rowan Cire

Boone: Ron Hackman-(neighbor)
 Jim Hedrick- (friends)
 Kay Bailey-(friend)

Chryssikos: Phillip-(son)
 Linda Arendt (neighbor)

City: Raymond

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally's)
 Janice Campbell (friend)

DeWitt: Shirley Magann- (friend of family)
 Gerald
 Family of Janet Morris- (cousin)

Diddams: Betty Lou- (sister-in-law)

Dills: Family of Jayce Goff
 Ashley Schley

Eagler: Janet

Easter: Ruby Key (friend)

Fedele: Albert Gardill (Jana's father)

Foster: Thomasine Davis -(aunt)
 Joyce Abbott

Fowler: Dick

Goodman: Barry Owen-(friend)
 Tracey- (daughter)
 Randall Sales

Harris: Judy- Westminster Canterbury

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson)
 John Primrose-(brother)
 Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister)

Kibbey: Nancy Milton-(friend)
 Rachel Rutledge- (granddaughter)
 Dot
 Grandson

Mausser: Joyce Reese- (friend)
 Steven-(son's boss)
 Pat- (Al's sister)
 Barbara- (sister-in-law)

Meyers: Bill (brother)

Morris: All first responders and police officers and
 forensic scientists
 Aaron Reifsnyder- (daughters friend)

Richwine; Missy (nephew's wife)

Riley: Christine

Rutledge: Margo

Salley: John Solon-(Betty's brother)
 Claire (Betty's niece)

Saunders: Colin Bridges- (grandson- 12yr old)
 Scott- (son-in-law)

Saunders: Nelson

Scheurer: Stephanie Hale- (friend of Sandy's)
 Fred

Schubert: Gerda & Ed

Smith: Bill Walker (Sonya's father)

Stetson: Dave's Boss' wife
 Youth Group

Stevens: Larry Johnson -(friend)
 Jackie Landis
 Dana Stevens- (niece)
 Greg Fulton- (friend)
 Billy Gray- (friend)

Toney: Karen Hyde- (friend)
 Mike Gillespie- (friend)

Van Dyke: Caroline- (daughter)

Weeks: Mary Lohmeyer-(friend)

Wilkerson: Ricky Wilkerson-(Dan's cousin)

Wilkes: Mary - Westminster Canterbury

**Prayers for victims of church bombings
 Persecuted Christians**

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' (Matthew 6:9-13)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June Birthdays

- Joan Richwine - 3
- Dot Kuhn - 7
- Dave Stetson - 12
- Hugh Saunders - 19
- Anne Tiedeman - 19
- Betty Salley - 25

June Anniversaries



- Christy and Sammy Boone - 2
- BJ & Heather Poindexter - 11
- Al and Judy Toney - 16
- Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21
- David & Kathy Grigg - 21
- Philip & Sherry Parker - 28



Bedford County Nursing Home

Betty Abbott- Room 114

Elks Home – 931 Ashland Ave.

Anna Latimer, Room B-208

Frankie Latimer, Room H-205

Frank & Tinkie Avery, Apt E-202

Quarry Hill

Anne Tiedeman

30 Community Dr., #312

Camden, ME 04843

Bentley Commons

Pat Clarke

Bentley Commons,

1604 Graves Mill Rd. Room 210

Lynchburg, VA 24502

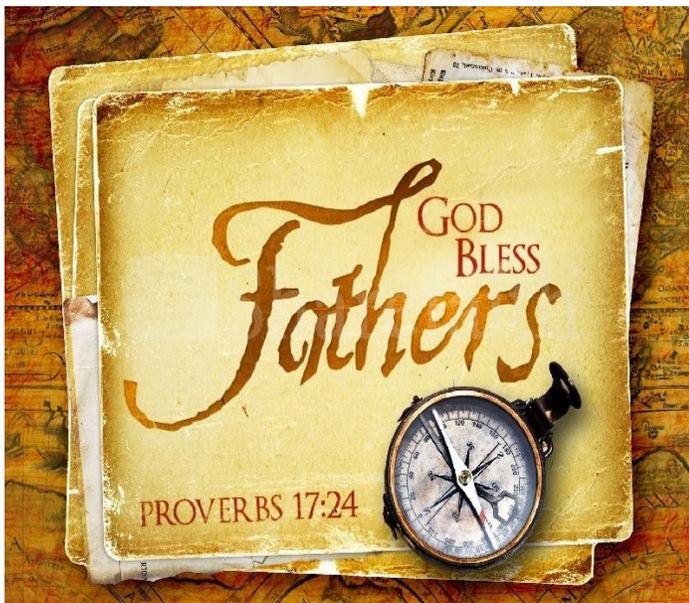
In Tennessee

Polly Turner

C/O Steve Turner

12 Riverside Dr.

Oak Ridge, TN 37830



In the Military

Nick Stetson- Navy

Stateside

Ben Daniel- Army

Deployed- Iraq

Matthew McManis- Marine

Quantico

Joy Byrne- Army

Deployed- Afghanistan

*Land of the Free,
Because of the Brave*

June 2019 Newsletter

Like to quilt? Like to knit? Like to meet with friends?

Peaks & Pieces Quilt Guild

Bedford Presbyterian hosts both **Peaks & Pieces Quilting Guild**, that meets every Monday evening at 6:30, and the occasional Saturday, when they can pull out the big quilting frames. For more information please call Randy Herrick at 540.330.9163.



On Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm, **Purl Jam** gathers in our "Pew Room" to knit and converse. For more information, look for "Purl Jam" on Facebook and Ravelry.



175th Anniversary Merchandise Market

Introducing the church merchandise mart for a variety of 175th Anniversary apparel, functional and artistic memorabilia. We have aprons, t-shirts and coffee mugs reflecting this year's celebration.

These items are available in the office now;

- T-Shirts (Short Sleeve)
- 2- medium @ \$10 each
- 2- large @ \$10 each
- 4- extra large @ \$10 each
- 3 extra- extra large @ \$12 each
- 1- aprons @ \$15 each
- 11-mugs @ \$8 each

Coming in August, if we get enough pre-orders, we will have a commemorative plate available designed by Lori Stetson. Order forms will be available on Sundays, on the church web page or in the office.

See Bill Mitchell for additional details.

