

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



## Week of January 17, 2021

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 for those that are uncomfortable to attend service.

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.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church  
serving Christ since 1844

*A Biblically Guided Christian Community,*

*Loving God, Loving Others,*

*Serving the World & Growing Disciples*

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

**All: And Also with you**

**Prelude**

*“Adagio from Sonata I”*

Mendelssohn

**Minute for Missions**

Patrick Henry Family Services

Patrick Neff

### **Words of Welcome and Announcements**

- The Congregational will be January 24th, immediately following the service.
- Prayer time will follow the service in the fellowship hall
- Something More will meet, Tuesday, at 3 pm, in-person and ZOOM
- For other announcements, be sure to read the rest of the bulletin

### **Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 33)

One: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, for the word of the Lord is upright and all His work is done in faithfulness. The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**All: By the word of the Lord, the heavens were made and all their host by the breath of His mouth.**

One: Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke and it came to be, He commanded and it stood firm.

**All: The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.**

**Hymn of Praise**

*“Psalm 33”*

Ken Bible

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God, in these days of fear and uncertainty, forgive our little faith; forgive our selfishness; forgive our carelessness. As we stay indoors, forgive us if we also turn inward, forgetting those in need and neglecting our time with You and Your Word. Have mercy we pray, in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

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**

*“Glory be to the Father”*

Hymn 734

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

### *Time for all God's Children*

#### **Scripture**

Exodus 31: 12-18

#### **Song**

*"O God, You Made the Sabbath Day"*

#### **Sermon**

Sabbath Keeping, Exodus 35: 1-2, 20:8-11

So we have come to the happy end of the book of Exodus, having been completely forgiven for their sin of worshipping the golden calf, the people now show a complete change of heart towards God. With the opening of chapter 35, when Moses comes down from his second 40 day sojourn up on Mt Sinai with the replacement set of tablets in hand and calls for the people to begin building the tabernacle, everyone responds! After asking for, "*whoever is of a generous heart*" to donate both their skills and supplies for building the ark, the altars, the tents and the priestly garments, the contributions were so generous that after a few days Moses had to order the people to stop giving; the artisans had all they needed to complete all the work. Remember that Israel was camping out in the wilderness so all these donations – all the gold, silver, bronze, jewelry, cloth, fiber, oil, perfumes and even the acacia wood for building the structures – had to be donated out of supplies that the people had brought with them from Egypt.

Chapters 35-40 are a joy to read as everyone begins to work; men and women together, cutting, shaping, gilding, weaving and sewing. It takes only 7-months to complete all the work on the tabernacle so that everything is in place and the priests are dressed and dedicated ready to go to work on the first day of the Hebrew New Year; exactly one year after God had ordered them to choose a lamb and begin preparations for the Passover.

But I want you to notice, that the first thing Moses said after coming down the mountain, even before he told the people to start building, that they were to always honor the Sabbath – even while building the tabernacle – and that any violation of the Sabbath would be a capital offense.

#### *Moses assembled all the congregation of the Israelites and said to them*

These are the things that the Lord has commanded, For six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy Sabbath of solemn rest to the Lord; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.

Ex. 35:1-2

Why was God so adamant about Israel's honoring the Sabbath?

The answer can be found in the last instruction which He gave to Moses before sending him down the mountain .... and perhaps you can guess that it was also about Sabbath keeping; the passage we just read this morning.

'You shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that **I, the Lord, sanctify you.** Exodus 31:13

For the people of Israel, this became one of their many names honoring God: "**The Lord who makes us holy.**" Of all the other commands given, honoring the Sabbath would be the people's way of showing weekly that they remembered who it was who shaped them into a nation, delivered them from Egypt and established them in the Promised Land. To rest on the Sabbath

was to acknowledge God's lordship over your life and your desire to live in close relation with Him. Of all the peoples of the world, God chose to build out of Israel a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

Thus to not keep the Sabbath, for a person of Israel was to publicly declare that you did not wish to honor God and did not want to live according to the covenant relationship He made with you. Thus, lest, your heretical performance were to lead any other people astray, the law declared that you were immediately to be put to death. The people paid very careful attention to this law so that, thankfully, it was enforced only once in the Biblical record when a man was found gathering sticks one Sabbath; that law was later interpreted in such a way by the Rabbis so that no one else was killed (numbers 15:32-36).

So that was why Sabbath Keeping continues to be important all the way up the Jews of our day, because it weekly identifies and reminds them that they were a people chosen by God to be His holy people.

But what about us Gentile Christians now living 2,000 years after Christ?  
How many of the 10 commandments are optional for us?

For many Americans, seemingly all of them! You can hardly go through a day without hearing the Lord's name misused. Lying, stealing, cheating on taxes, adultery, prostitution, as long as it doesn't get too bad, is accepted. And coveting? That's what keeps the economy humming along.

Most Christians would not routinely steal, lie, murder, commit adultery, or use profanity—at least without feeling guilty and trying to improve their performance! But when we come to the fourth commandment...

*Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.* Exodus 20:8-11

Is Sabbath keeping optional for us?

The Jewish Sabbath was from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Early Jewish Christians would honor the Sabbath, then gather on Sunday, because it was the day of Christ's resurrection, for fellowship and a meal. But in the Gentile world many Christians were slaves and they had to work all day Saturday and Sunday. So worship might have been done on Sunday evenings. How could Christians keep the Sabbath?

By the fourth century, Christianity had taken over the Roman Empire and there was a law against working on Sunday. By the ninth century, Sunday was called the "Lord's Day," a sort of Christian Sabbath. The Westminster Confession of 1648, a cornerstone document of the Presbyterian Church, says of Sunday,

*This Sabbath is to be kept holy unto the Lord when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering of their common affairs beforehand, do not only observe an holy rest all the day from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations, but also are taken up THE WHOLE TIME in the public and private exercises of [God's] worship, and in the duties of necessity and mercy."* (Book of Confessions, WC: 6.119)

Did they get it right? I grew up in a home that was not quite that strict, although we spent a lot of time at church on Sundays and we didn't go shopping, since most Blue Laws were still in effect. Sunday afternoons were quiet, I read a lot of books, watched TV. It may have been legalistic, but a break from normal activities had its benefits. Should that still be the standard for Christians?

When challenged, Jesus affirmed God's law, but He was not legalistic about the Sabbath. Jewish leaders were upset when He picked grain as He walked through a field, and when He healed on the Sabbath. His response was, "*The Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath.*" (Mark 2:27) So are we, then, obligated to observe the Sabbath?

A related question is whether we, as followers of Christ, are obligated to obey ANY of the commandments.

If we are wondering whether we can rebel against what God says, the Apostle Paul is quite clear, "***Should we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? By no means!***" (Romans 6:15). We are not UNDER LAW. Our obedience is not to a list of rules, but to the will of God for us. In other words, we don't ask, "**What does the law require of me?**" but rather, "**What does God want for me to do?**" And yes, the Ten Commandments, with the assistance of the indwelling Holy Spirit, can still serve to teach what God wants for us. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "***We have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.***" (Romans 7:6 ESV)

What Paul meant was that - unlike the Hebrew people - we are not required to keep the Sabbath in a legalistic way; we keep the Sabbath as the Holy Spirit leads us. At the same time, we take very seriously God's commandment to observe the Sabbath, because we trust Him to have our best interests at heart and like the Hebrew people of old, we also consider ourselves to be a holy people who wish to publicly honor God for all that He has given us.

So, how might we implement the principle and practice of Sabbath in our lives today?  
HOW CAN WE KEEP the SABBATH HOLY?

**1. Set aside a regular day to relax from the pressures of everyday life.** God built into His creation a rhythm; six days of work followed by a seventh day of rest. Did God need rest? Hardly. But we do! Thus, at the very beginning of our Scriptures, God gave people a maintenance schedule. Just like the regular maintenance which is required for our cars. Remember the good old days, when they would put a little sticker on your window to remind you of the next oil change? I guess that didn't work so well, now our new cars verbally, visually, and repeatedly remind us when they want their oil changed. Just like our cars, when we follow our regular maintenance schedule we reap a noticeable benefit.

Secular journalist A.J. Jacobs spent a year of his life living quite literally according to ancient Hebrew law. Some of the practices were very legalistic, although he found that through them he was drawn to forgiveness, prayer, and the Sabbath. Christianity Today asked him, "What did taking a Sabbath do for you?" He replied, "I had been a workaholic, so I would work 24 hours a day. The first thing I would do when I woke up was check my Blackberry. The Sabbath is a great thing, because the Bible is saying you can't work. You can't check e-mail. You have to spend the day with your family. It's a real smell-the-roses type of day. I found it to be a day for joy, for just really reconnecting with my life and realizing that work is not everything. I loved it, but it was a huge struggle. I had to do it in stages. I still practice the Sabbath now. I'm Jewish, so I do it on Saturday. It's a day where I spend time with the family and refuse to work." (CT, January 1, 2008)

Does our rest have to be on Saturday or Sunday? God gives us lot of flexibility: In his letter to the gentile Christians in Rome, Rabbi Paul wrote, *"One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind."* (14:5). So your Sabbath doesn't have to be on Sunday, but you should set a day – not just an hour or two – to unwind, to let go of stress and busyness. Your Boss has told you to take some time off...every week! It is not optional; He is the Lord! Don't feel guilty!

What should you do with that time? Are you going to be stuck on your phone, or sitting around, feeling you should be doing something? You probably need a plan and your plan should involve a CHANGE OF PACE. If you are active all week, take a nap, watch TV, go fishing, or read a book. If you sit most of the time, get out and exercise, or work in the garden. If you constantly stare at a screen, turn everything off and take a quiet walk with your spouse. If you really enjoy mowing the lawn or doing the laundry, go ahead; if you don't enjoy it, plan ahead, so that your lack of clean socks or the angry stares of your neighbors don't force you to get to work. You have a lot of freedom to choose, but don't cheat yourself!

**2. Make Sabbath worship a priority.** As I said, Jesus was no legalist when it came to the Sabbath. Yet we read in the Gospel of Luke, "Jesus went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, AS WAS HIS CUSTOM." (4:16). Worship was on His busy schedule every week.

When we worship every week, like the Hebrews of old, we are making a declaration to ourselves: **"God is center of my life."** The center of my life is not work, not recreation, not even family. In fact, God is even more important than activities I might enjoy during the time when I worship. Weekly worship also makes a statement to our children, and to all those around us, about the priority of God in our lives.

The Sabbath has practical impact as well. Like rest, worship is also part of our preventive maintenance. We reflect on our lives, to eliminate confusion and confess our sins. We encounter God and renew our faith and passion. We gain perspective on our problems and pressures and receive guidance from God.

One of the best church ads I have ever seen is, "After the week you've had, you need a church like ours." I hope our church is the kind of church that resets us for another week.

Our participation in Sunday worship is also maintenance for the whole body of Christ, the church. Weekly worship is critical for a healthy, vibrant church that makes an impact in the world.

It says something about our culture in that it has now made weekly worship a challenge. Sports and recreation have taken over traditional worship times. Other people have to work because stores and restaurants chose to stay open on Sundays.

Of course the Covid pandemic has also made worship a challenge. Out of health concerns, many people now worship on YouTube, or gather their household together for family worship. Those are both good things, although it does not provide as many opportunities for people to share the gifts of teaching, music, caring, or encouragement. That is why the letter to the Hebrews encourages, *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (10:24-25).

You know how it is when people are missing from church; you miss them. When you are the one who is missing, they miss you. Just sayin'.

## How do we keep the Sabbath? Relax, worship and... Get a taste of heaven.

The Heidelberg Catechism, another of our cornerstone documents, has a great statement about the Sabbath: *[God's will for me is] "that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin already in this life the eternal Sabbath."* (Q. & A. #103, based primarily on Hebrews 4:9-11.)

What would you like to do in heaven? In heaven, will you spend time with your family, a much larger and more perfect family? Will there be unimaginable beauty, fantastic music and an endless array of interesting things to do and see? Will you worship?

What is your ideal Sunday like? Is worship part of it? (If not, what does that say to you?). Does your ideal Sunday include a family dinner or family outing, a round of golf, or some family games, or an intimate conversation? Will you enjoy the beauty of nature? Will you create something? Will you take the time to visit or call someone in need of company? Will you do deeds of mercy and love? (In some traditions, people often took time on Sunday afternoons to visit those who were lonely or sick.)

Will you have intimate fellowship with God in private prayer? Will you spend time with a small group from church?

Your ideal Sabbath might tell you something about how ready for heaven you are! Your vision of heaven will carry over into the rest of your life. As the catechism says, "*that EVERY DAY of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin ALREADY IN THIS LIFE the eternal Sabbath*"

We will keep the Sabbath when God is at the center of our life, when we worship and love him; when people are a priority, especially family and church family and people in need; when we appreciate the good things that God gave us and give thanks for both them and the time He gives us to enjoy them.

For us, Sabbath keeping is not a law, but it is a God given privilege that is still ours to enjoy. A healthy life includes both productive times (six days!) and rejuvenating times.

Communal worship is also another of God's gifts to us; it builds our body as together we build the Body of Christ. So worship should be another priority. Maybe you need to change your commitments and plans. Also, when you come to worship, come prepared with a passionate desire for God, readiness to participate with others and high expectations.

Thus, through Sabbath keeping and worship, we can strive for a taste of heaven every day. We can spend time with God, do our work for His glory, love our families, and show His grace to everyone we meet.

Let's pray about this together.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

### **Song**

*"Come Away from Rush and Hurry"*

Marva J. Dawn

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Celtic Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, He died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day He rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present and His kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

### **Doxology**

*"Doxology"*

Hymn 44

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

#### **Prayers of the People**

Generous God, You have given us life, a place to live in and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated. Make us humble enough to help and comfort them, so that Your love and justice and peace may come to them. Make us humble and open enough to listen to different opinions and to seek a common middle ground so that we may live peacefully with our neighbors. We make bold to consecrate ourselves to You and to the service of others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **Lord's Prayer- Now let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us**

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.

### **Closing Song**

*"May Your Presence Go with Us"*

Moen

## THE SENDING FORTH

### **Benediction** (Jude 24-25)

To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy -- To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

### **Postlude**

*"Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan"*

Johann Walther

## Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Will be by take-out only, January 18th from 5 – 8 pm at the Community Center. Tickets can be purchased from John Salley, then you can drive by on the 18<sup>th</sup> and pick up.



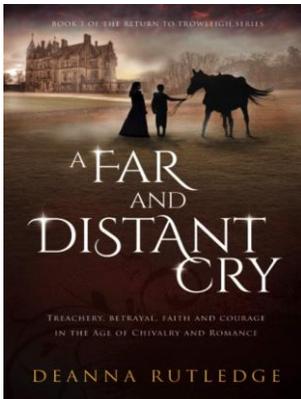
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**January 24th, immediately**  
**following service**

**Want to read a good Historical Book?**

**"A Far and Distant Cry" by Deanna Rutledge**

(Available on Amazon)



"What an easy way to recall what I learned in History Class many years ago. Deanna Rutledge's book was a journey into history. And the characters (a sister and brother) are so real. One can tell Mrs. Rutledge did extensive research in presenting this book which was full of intrigue, violence and power and the wherewithal of young people to survive. A real page turner."

Reviewed by Judy Toney

## Joys- January 17<sup>th</sup>

**Bill R.**- now part of Professional Guild of Organists

**Bill M.**- thanks everyone for prayers, cards, calls and goodies

**Patty Meyers**- doing better

## Concerns- January 17<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Rev. Frank and for Tinkie who has dementia

**Barefoot:** Kimberly, (daughter-in-law) tested positive for covid

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) health issues

Eunice- sciatica, torn rotator cuff, doing better

**Benton:** Roger (friend) in rehab

**Blair:** Katy Neel- (LHS student) lymphoma- chemo

Tonya Blair's friend-(Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer

Walter Spaeth- (friend) passed away, prayers for family

Sandy Murgavz-(friend) husband passed away

**Boone:** Jim Hedrick - (friend) recovering from partial lung removal

Judy Jockets- (sister's friend) lung cancer

Jim Cutler- (LHS teacher) stage 4 lung cancer

Dennis S. - terminal pancreatic cancer

Jean- (cousin) home after battling covid, has COPD

Kenny Johnson-(friend) heart attack

**Casdorff:** friend who had quadruple bypasses

**Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter-(brother) heart failure

Mary-(friend) travel mercies

**Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for his faith

**DeWitt-** Tammy's mom in ICU, dad in rehab

**Diddams:** Lois- recovering, Dick home

**Dills:** Katy Neel- lymphoma- chemo

**Fleming:** family dealing with addiction and self- esteem

Steve Trombecky- (friend) home recovering

Christina- (daughter) lives in Covid hotspot

Their children- having difficulties

**Foster:** Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer

Marian Kelly- (friend) breast cancer, mother's caretaker

Craig Nielson-(nephew) in hospital with covid

Howard-(Tom's brother) thyroid and other health issues

Tom- recovering at home

**Goodman:** Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer

Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice

**Grigg:** Danny Miller- (co-worker) bladder cancer

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's

Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Grandson- alcoholism

Dan Withers- (friend) inoperative cancer

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) medical issues

**Meyers:** Patty- doing better

Richard & Kathleen Michael, (Boy Scout master) both not feeling well

Patty McKinney- (friend) paraplegic fell, broke both knees and leg

**Mitchell:** Bill-finished radiation treatments, prognosis great

**Morris:** Lisa(Robert's wife) lung cancer, beginning treatment

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

**Saunders:** Gloria- had mini stroke- at home

**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) doing well, still undergoing chemo

Ronnie- worried about children

**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny- (son) colon cancer

Mike Sheldon- Lynchburg ICU, infection

**Smith:** Dorothy Smith (John's mother) moved into assisted living; pray she comes to the Lord

Bill Walker- (Sonya's father) late stage Parkinson's

Marie Walker- (Sonya's mother) tests on brain tumors

**Stetson:** David Wykle- passed away, prayers for family

Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Dr. Fessler- went blind, in hospital

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems

Mike Elliston- asthma

Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer, covid-19

**Toney:** Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer

Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

Steve- (son) has covid

**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel- (friend) MS

**Prayers for all front line workers, Drs, nurses, first responders**

**Prayers for our nation, our President and President elect**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

**Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected**

**Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different**

## Three more ways to support Bedford Presbyterian



**CREDIT CARD!** -- If you wish to make a donation to the Church using your credit card, go to the Bedford Presbyterian Website and look for the **DONATE** button. Donations through the website will be charged a 2% processing fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

CLICK for more information: <https://www.bedfordpresbyva.org/donate.html>



**SHOP ONLINE!** – on your web browser or cell phone app shop at Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)). Register Bedford Presbyterian as your charity of choice and Amazon will .5% of your entire eligible purchase price to the church.

CLICK for more information: <https://smile.amazon.com/>



**SHOP IN THE STORE** – Link your Kroger Card to Bedford Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice and a percentage of all your purchases will be contributed to the church.

Click for more information: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

It's not much.... but every little bit helps.



## Capital Campaign

The funds raised by the 175th campaign are nearly depleted and a new campaign "Moving in Faith" has begun to address some exterior maintenance and repair issues, as well as some interior lighting upgrades. Some items are critical such as painting the steeple. Others, like new doors to the fellowship hall and sanctuary are not so critical but will soon become so. Our goal is \$45,000.00 over the next two years. Move forward in faith and give to the "Moving in Faith" capital campaign.



## A Sweet Retreat for Married Couples!



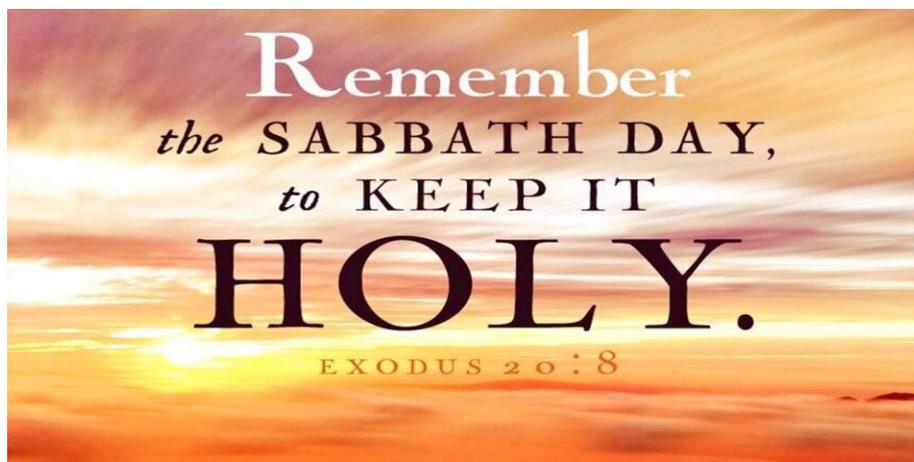
It's no coincidence that Valentine's Day is the culmination of National Marriage Week (February 7-14). In honor of both of those traditions, Compass Marriage & Relationship Services is once again partnering with Patrick Henry Family Services to provide a marriage retreat at the Hammersley Center in Brookneal, Virginia. This is a wonderful facility in a beautiful natural setting. Couples will arrive Friday evening, enjoy a candlelit supper, then engage in some interactive learning about enhancing the romance in marriage (led by Compass Executive Director, Larry Compter). The evening will conclude with a special wine-and-chocolate dessert reception hosted by Compass.

On Saturday, the retreat continues with more teaching and activities, as well as plenty of time to spend alone with your mate. Walk down to the lake, or tour the grounds at your own pace, while sharing your thoughts and dreams with the love of your life! Why do this? Because every married couple knows (or should know) the importance of keeping the romance alive in marriage. But let's face it – sometimes it can be difficult! Hearts, flowers and candy are nice, but what many couples really want is time. Time to focus on each other, time to talk, time to hold hands and go for a walk.

There really is no substitute for quality time together, with just the two of you.

This is a golden opportunity to keep the passion alive in your marriage, or to make a fresh start if you need it. And it is not expensive – \$195 per couple includes lodging, meals, the teaching and activities. Space is limited, so be sure to register soon at <https://www.patrickhenry.org/events/>.

As an added bonus, couples can stay at the Center over Saturday night as well. No program – just lots of time with your spouse in a beautiful environment! If you are interested in this option, please indicate so on your registration form.



**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.  
You can mail your pledge or contribution (also 5 ¢ a meal and Heifer) or you  
can drop by the office, Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4pm.**

**Activities for week of January 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday:** 10 am Worship

Session

Prayer Time after service in Anna Latimer room

**Monday:** Quilters- 6 pm

Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner- take out

**Tuesday:** 3 pm Something more, in-person and ZOOM

**Sunday:** January 24<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship

Congregational Meeting

**January Anniversaries**

Bill and Janet Yodis - 24

Here's a list of our shut-ins, please take time to send a card or  
give them a call, to let them know you are thinking of them.

**Covid Shut-ins**

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cram  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Heinrich  
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Kibbey  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Mauser  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Neal  
Ms. Lynne Palmer  
Mrs. Christine Riley  
Mrs. Judy Toney  
Ms. Gloria Saunders  
Mr. Ronnie Saunders  
Ms. Mary Wilkes

**Long Term Shut-ins**

Anne Arthur  
Rev. Frank & Tinkie Avery  
Pat Clarke  
Janet Eagler  
Ann Fowler  
Dorinda Hopkins  
Doris Koch  
Anna Latimer  
Ruby Page