

From: **Bedford Presbyterian Church** news@bedfordpresbyterian.org
Subject: Weekly Hilltop Crier
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Bedford Presbyterian Church

Hilltop Crier for February 14



Happy Valentine's Day!

There is a fun rap song about Valentine's Day that came out years ago in which Cupid - the little angel with the bow and arrow that we see on greeting cards this time of year - goes up against various holiday-themed mascots like the Easter Bunny, leprechauns, groundhogs, and Santa Claus. Over the course of the song with lyrics like, "love will rule supreme. . ." and "Cupid will not be defeated. . ." it becomes clear that Cupid - or rather, "love" - wins the day.

Years before rap music, the great jazz saxophonist, John Coltrane, recorded an

album called *A Love Supreme*, which had a theme that was played and chanted over and over: "A Love Supreme. . . A Love Supreme. . . A Love Supreme. . ." There are those who have written that Coltrane wanted to point to the (capital "L") Love of God from which all beauty and talent and expression flow. Love is supreme. . . above all other things.

When we sing the hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," there is this beautiful line in the third verse in which we sing:

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began,
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan. . .

As Christians, we believe that the Love of God cannot and will not be defeated and that Love divine is reigning over all creation. But the Love of God is not just some abstract external force or thing that we can talk about like it is merely a concept. The Love of God that reigns over us is at work in every human heart by the power of the Holy Spirit. All we need is to seek out that Love within ourselves - the Love that comes from God - and share it.

May we share it well, letting Love rule supreme. . .

See you in church!

Grace and Peace,

John

Prepare for Worship

This Week: Kicking it Up a Notch - Next-Level Lawful Living in the Kingdom of Heaven

- Read Matthew 5:21-37
- Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Read or sing Hymn # 372 - "O, For a World" -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w2LSAXiYRI>. The music starts around minute 1:15.

Click on the link below for a copy of the bulletin:

https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/files/3515/8161/5802/2020_-_February_16-_Bulletin_.pdf



Dear Bedford Presbyterian Church Church,

It is almost Valentine's Day and you were tops on my list to get a Valentine this year! Why? Because I you and I wanted to get the chance to share my thanks for the wonderful retirement send-off you gave and my family. Thank you for the many ways you shared your love and appreciation with me starting

The tree being planted up at MATE honoring me and our work up in Maine, for the reading of the name of 121 youth that have gone up with George and me to help build safe homes and for the team sharing personal messages of thanks that really touched me. Thank you!

The beautiful quilt the Quilt Guild made for me in the pattern, "love letters" in the colors that match the great room of our home. I have always loved quilts and I cherish it as it reminds me of our partners in mission, the Quilters, and for all the times the Quilt Guild provided generous monetary support to the pastor's discretionary account that brought comfort and aid to people in crisis, such incredible help and partnership! Thank you!

To the anonymous person who gave the pastor's discretionary account a gift of abundance for our work together upon my retirement. I say thank you to you for providing a tangible help to many people who really need it! People will be warm, fed, and get the medicine they need because you gave this awesome gift. Thank you!

The creative, Tracie Carrier Easter print that the Transition Team gave me was such a thoughtful gift. It reminds me that with the resurrection, God's love and power prevail. Not to mention, there is a man and a woman pastor presiding in the print and being a co-pastor with John with you was one of the highlights of my life and ministry. Thank you!

Deacons what a special treasure you gave me, the Bible that everyone signed. I read it daily and pray for the name of a day that comes from the lists of people that signed it. It helps me stay connected to God and to the church and it reminds me of all the gospel work we shared together. Thank you!

The gift of six thousand dollars literally bowled me over. It was so very generous. I wanted you to know that I am going to use some of it to go to Scotland this summer to see where our Bedford forebearers came from. It will be a trip of a lifetime. It is happening because you gave me such an amazing gift. Thank you!

To those who contributed to the special "star coffee hour" and the lovely article in the paper and to those who gave me personal expressions of thanks and gifts and cards that were so sweet and meaningful, I love them and you! I have been so blessed! One of the sweetest expressions was the honor of being named

Pastor Emeritus! I have always been so proud to be your pastor and now being named Pastor Emeritus company with Willie, simply multiplies the blessing! Thank you too, to John for the kind words he shared at the Presbytery meeting and on my last Sunday! There are no words to express my thanksgiving to John, Michelle, and Barb! What great people to be in ministry with! I miss each one of them a ton!

Know that you too are so very missed. I also want you to know that one of the biggest blessings was that upon retirement that the words of our faith have taken on a deeper meaning, words like faith, grace, gratitude, transformation and new life. This surprised me and it was so unexpected and is just so nourishing. Pastor John has told me that everything is going well at BPC and that brings a smile to my face and makes me so very happy for all of you!

"Every perfect gift is from above from the Father of the Heavenly lights..." James 1:17 And you beloved have certainly been that perfect gift for me! Thank you for everything and for celebrating our life together with such joy and thanksgiving amidst the bitter sweetness of good goodbye! A new day is dawning for you with new life for you, so go and let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven! Happy Valentine's Day to you!

With Thanksgiving and Love,
Karen Hagy, Pastor Emeritus
Bedford Presbyterian Church



Creating Congregational Connections House Meetings with Pastor John

- How well do you know your church?
- How well do you know your pastor?
- How well do you know the people who are involved in the life of BPC?

Even if you've been at BPC for a loooong time, you might not know your neighbors well as you could.

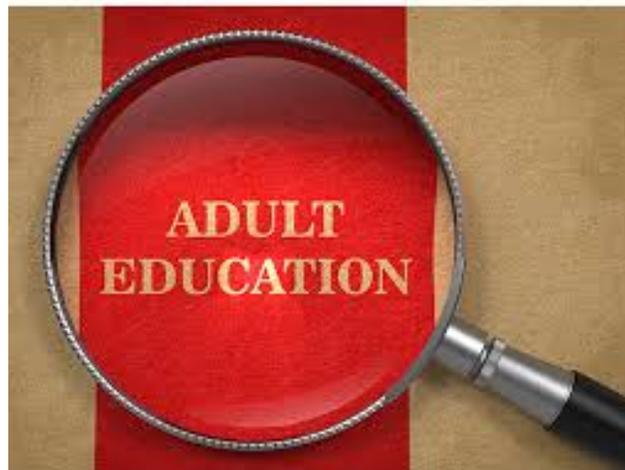
In this time of change in the life of our congregation, BPC is inviting you to...

In this time of change in the life of our congregation, BPC is providing a place to connect and reconnect with your church. We are doing this through meeting in people's homes during the season of Lent and asking you to reflect on two questions with Pastor John: "Why church?" and "What does support look like from your pastor?"

Everyone involved in the life of BPC is invited to attend one of the house meetings which will be held on Sundays, starting on February 23. You only need to attend one of the meetings and we have plenty of dates and times from which to choose. Once you "opt in" for a date and time, we'll let you know where that meeting will take place. Sign up by Sunday, March 1!

- Sunday, February 23 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 1 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 8 - 11:15-12:15 PM at BPC
- Sunday, March 15 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 22 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 29 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, April 5 - 11:15-12:15 PM at BPC

If you would like to host a house meeting for 15-20 people on one of the dates and times listed above, please let us know by contacting the church office: 603-472-5111 or mjones@bedfordpresbyterian.org.



Two Classes for Lent

BPC will be offering two special classes for adults in the season of Lent:

"Holy Conversations", led by Bethany Avery, on Wednesday evenings 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 and 4/8 at 6 PM. Everybody is on a spiritual pilgrimage. Everybody. Even those who curse God. True, they may be going in the wrong direction (away from God) but they are still on a spiritual journey. They can't help it. This is the way God made us. Agnostics, atheists, deists, seekers, the disillusioned, the contented, the hedonists - lots of names for different stopping places on the journey. The point is

modernists - lots of names for different stopping places on the journey. The point is that different people are at different stops on the journey. Many are hungry for real conversations about their journeys. This is when holy conversation can take place. This book, *Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life* by Richard Peace will guide us into ways to talk our journey that is personal, true, and helpful to others.

In "The Beatitudes," led by Bob Godbout, why is the Sermon on the Mount often called the "Christian Manifesto", i.e. the essential core of what it means for us to be "Christian"? And why is the challenge of the Sermon expressed as the "Christian Counterculture"? Let's begin our inquiry with the eight Beatitudes with which the Sermon begins. (Mt. 5: 3-12). These eight (apparently) simple declarations hold forth inexhaustible wisdom and relevance for our everyday lives. All of you are invited to join our class during Lent, each Sunday at 11 AM, starting March 1 through April 1, using the book by John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*. This will not be a high-powered "academic" class but rather a deep devotional study intended to improve our relationship with Jesus our Lord. Questions? Call Pastor [redacted] or Bob Godbout at 717-5562. Please sign up ASAP to help us with logistics. Thank you!"



**MISSION AUCTION
SUNDAY, MARCH 8
4 P.M.**

Please support BPC's many mission activities (including mission trips, Helpi Hands, and the Bedford Food Pantry) by participating in the upcoming Mission Auction on Sunday, March 8 at 4 pm. There are many ways to contribute, even if you cannot attend the auction itself.

Donate:

[Items](#)(sports tickets, theater tickets, vacation home "rentals", etc.)

[Services/Experiences](#)(cooking a gourmet meal, knitting/quilting a custom blanket, babysitting, lessons, boating outing, etc.)

[Money](#)

Attend:the auction (and bring a friend!)

Bid on auction items (even if you can't be present in person!)

Auctions are held only every 3-4 years, so our goal is to raise \$30,000.

To donate, look for the form in the weekly bulletins and place it in the offering plate. Contact Deb Stanas (dstanas@yahoo.com, 603-670-8448) or George Reese (georeese@msn.com, 603-714-4317) with questions or for more details.



Please note Sunday School will not meet during school vacations so there will be no Sunday School on 2/23, 3/1, 4/26, 5/3. We will celebrate the conclusion of our church school year on May 17th!

BPC Kids "Love Your Neighbor" School Supply Drive

As we approach Valentine's Day, the Children and Youth of BPC will be holding a school supply drive for our neighbors at Bakersville Elementary School in Manchester. A box for the donated supplies will be outside the Sunday School classrooms. The items needed most are: markers, crayons, glue, glue sticks, math flash cards, dice, and sight word flashcards. Donations will be collected from now until Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day Parents Night Out

Please mark your calendars for our annual Parent's Night Out "**Un-sleepover**" to be held on Valentine's Day (Friday, February 14th from 6-9 pm). Children aged 4-12 should wear their pajamas and bring pillow, sleeping bag, and stuffed animal to the party. The party will include silly games, a movie, optional kid-friendly manicures, and of course, PIZZA! **Please RSVP to eliza.michalski@gmail.com.**

Be on the lookout for more children's ministry activities to come!!!
The Children's Ministry Committee at BPC is joyfully called to inspire and nurture the children of BPC, to introduce them to faith, church life, to help them know and love God, and to know they belong to a close church family! If you can be of service to your family or if you have a question about CMC and

children's programming at BPC, please email Melinda Chen at maestrachen@gmail.com!

God Bless!The Children's Ministry Committee of BPC



The New 2020 Coffee Hour Host schedule is posted on MyBPC and on the bullet board in Fellowship Hall.

Please take a look and see if you and a friend (or group) can host Coffee Hour. To sign up on MyBPC : Login, select "Groups" in left column, select Coffee Hour Hosts, select "Needs", click on Winter 2020 Coffee Hour Hosts, and check off **I'll Take It** ~ that easy !!

If you would like to be on the Fellowship Committee, MyBPC Coffee Hour Host G or the Baker's Dozen please contact Linda Phelps at linda.phelps@comcast.net talk to any Fellowship member during the Coffee Hour.

A great way to share your time and talent when your schedule allows !



Welcome to RYODBC ~ Read Your Own Darn Book Club

RYODBC is not your traditional book club. It works more like a book swap. Simply arrive with a few books (any genre) that you really enjoyed or even LOVED. Say a few words about the books. Did it take you on a compelling journey, have quirky characters, wonderful dialogue, a unique view point, or just a great story? Be willing to part with the book(s) or at least send it on a lengthy journey! Once everyone is done sharing ~ the book swap begins!

We hope you will join is for a fun evening.

RYODBC next meeting:

Thursday February 20th @ 7PM

Hosted by Linda Phelps ~ 17 Rumford Ln Bedford NH

RSVP Linda at linda.phelps@comcast.net or 603-471-1004 (leave a message)

Beverages and Appetizers will be served



The Women's Books and Bible Group will meet on Thursdays at 10:30 outside Fellowship Hall. We will read and discuss the book "Grateful" by Diana Butler Ba. All are welcome-men and women. A quote from "Grateful" is below:

"...gratitude strengthens our character and moral resolve, giving each of us the possibility of living peaceably and justly. Being thankful is the very essence of what means to be alive and to know that life abundantly."

This book was suggested by Pastor John.

We will discuss the book in five parts for five weeks. Parts I - IV and then the Epilogue. Meetings will be weather permitting.

The book is available from Amazon.



Giving at BPC

BPC is now a beneficiary of Amazon Smile! [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) Smile will donate 0.5% of each purchase when BPC is selected as the charitable organization. So for every \$100 of purchases 50 cents is received. You can access [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and benefit BPC using the following link (bit.ly/smilebpc).

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