

New Bedford Presbyterian Church  
151 Woodland Drive  
Pulaski, PA 16143



## REDEEMING TIMES December 2011

Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

In this Christmas season I would like to reflect upon a question I was asked a few years ago in a Senior High Sunday School Class. I was asked; “Did God know that He would send Jesus to earth in advance?” The answer is yes. Before the creation of humanity God knew of His plan. Before He created humanity he knew we would reject Him and would be in need of a Savior. I was then asked: “Why did God delay so long in sending His Son?” Abraham lived in about 2000 BC. Moses was given the Law in about 1500 BC. Why did God take 2000 years to send Jesus?

The answer is found in Galatians 3:19. It states; **“Where then lies the purpose of the Law? It was an addition made to underline the existence of sin.”** God took 2000 years to point out the fact that we were sinners. God took 2000 year to point to the need for Jesus Christ. The life of Christ lasted a little over thirty years... the preparation for those thirty years took 2000 years or more.

I believe this once again points to God’s great wisdom. Sending a Savior to earth was fairly “easy” (not minimizing the cost of the cross). Having people accept that Savior as their Lord is the hard part.

This fact is evident today. Almost every person with a Christian heritage celebrates Christmas. Church attendance reaches a yearly high. Believing the birth stories of Christ is widespread and enjoyable. People like to accept the thirty three year ministry of Christ. People often ignore the 2000 years of preparation. People ignore the “existence and extent of sin.” It’s fun to exchange gifts... it’s not so much fun to reflect on our sinfulness. The problem is this... without this reflection on our need for a Savior the Christmas story is made insignificant and becomes only a nice children’s story. The story of the birth of Jesus is placed on the same level as the story of Santa Clause.

I share with you Good News. Unto us is born a Savior. We need a Savior. Jesus is alive and present in our lives. Together let us celebrate the reality of our love relationship with our Lord. Merry, Merry Christmas to one and all.

In Christ,  
Doug

# SESSION NOTES

The regular meeting of Session was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

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**A SPECIAL SESSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M.. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE PRESENT.**

In our November meeting we decided to officially “explore withdrawal from the PCUSA.” This is the first step required by the Presbytery of Shenango. The Presbytery of Shenango has now assigned us a “Dismissal Consultation Team.” On Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December we are scheduled to meet with the “Team” for the first time.

In the near future we will make a recommendation to the congregation. We will recommend either to remain in the PCUSA or to withdraw from the PCUSA. If we recommend to withdraw there will be a congregational time of discussion and discovery. We are very anxious to enter into this time of discussion. According to the process passed in November by the Presbytery of Shenango we are required to wait until after we meet with the “Team” to enter this discussion time. We will also call the first of two Congregational Meetings to consider our recommendation.

Please keep us in your prayers. Our goal is to be faithful to the Word of God and to maintain the unity of our church. Our prayer is this we will move into our future together.

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There will be one service at 10:30A.M. on Christmas Day. The children will present their pageant that morning.

Also there will be only one service at 10:30A.M. on New Years Day led by our Worship Team.

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There will be **NO** Sunday School on Christmas Day.

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## Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering this year will be going to help two or maybe even three students at Emmaus Bible College where Matt and Stacey Ayars are teaching. Some students have a very hard time finding the money to attend and even some will save money instead of eating just to be able to take their classes.

The two students we have pictures of are: Roziane Denis. One of her brothers attended Emmaus Biblical Seminary about 10 years ago and is now a pastor to Haitians in the Dominican Republic. She is a first year student and the only female in the first year class. She lives on campus during the week and returns to her family on the weekends. She is 26 and has 4 brothers and 2 sisters. She want to be a godly and Biblical teacher in the church, especially to women in the church

The next student is Hernst Gedeus  
He is 27 years old and has been married for two years and just became a father for the first time 2 months ago. He is also a member of the first year class he is an extern and returns home every day after classes. He saw growing up that Satan and voodoo had nothing to offer but the same old lies. God seemed to keep pursuing him and he chose to accept Christianity for himself. God also brought a godly woman into his life. He wants to grow closer to God and to eventually teach His word..

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## DEACON NOTES

The deacons will be packing boxes for those in need in our area. You may help by bringing in non-perishable food items for the boxes There are boxes in the vestibule where you may put your donations.



Food Baskets



Poinsettias

**The Deacons will be taking orders for Poinsettias again this year. They will be \$7.00 A deacon will be in the vestibule following worship service to take your order. The deacons have checked and the poinsettias are very nice this year.**

# BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

Adam Marshall-----01  
 Diana Halt-----02  
 Betty Komar-----05  
 Philip Brubaker-----06  
 Kyle Jones-----07  
 Jim Shick-----07  
 Jim Rishell-----09  
 Alexis Jones-----09  
 Chuck Bell-----09  
 Bob Bell-----09  
 Bob Miller-----11  
 Evelyn Exley-----14  
 Jo Ruby-----14  
 Wanda Boyles-----16  
 Addie Moore-----17  
 Bob Zedaker-----19  
 Rebecca Halt-----19  
 LaVon Rogers-----21  
 Dick Robison-----21  
 David Barnhart-----23  
 Florence Allison-----25  
 Darlene Robison-----28  
 Christa Matthews-----29



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## Church Wide Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> here at the church. Program begins at 5:00P.M. and the meal at 5:30P.M. Please bring a casserole to share according to the first letter of your last name.



- A - F-----Dessert
- G - P-----Hot Dish or Vegetable
- R - Z-----Salad

The following will be furnished: Ham, Parsley Potatoes, Corn, Rolls and Beverage.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

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*Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name"*

**Luke1:46-49**

## THANK YOU

We want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to members and friends of the congregation for all the cards, visits, calls, concern and especially the prayers for myself and family during these past few months. It's been a long hard struggle. Even though I'm still not 100% I am so thankful for each day that I'm gaining strength, off of dialysis and back in my home. So many people have done so much and helped in so many ways that all I can say is "Thank You". -Don Jones

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Thank You to all who sent cards, made calls, visits and offered prayers for me during my hospital stays these last couple months. Your caring and concern meant so much. It's great to have a caring church family. -Art Spence

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Thank You to Pastor Doug for his much appreciated visits; to our wonderful congregation for all the cards, concern and prayers for us; and for Nathan for the sermons he sent us. We certainly appreciate everything.

-George and Marie Snyder

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Thank You for the expressions of sympathy and the floral tribute for our wife and mother, Elaine Slagle. Your kindness was appreciated.

-The Slagle Family

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## WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's Association had their Christmas Dinner at the Shenango Home on Thursday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Officers were installed for the new year. It was a very enjoyable evening for all those who attended.

### Circles

The Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 9:00A.M.

The Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, December 19, at 7:00P.M. at the church. Please remember to bring small gifts for our shut-ins and a reading or story for the program.

The Rebekah Circle does not meet in December

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# YOUTH NEWS

The month of December always brings days full of planning for Christmas and many events and activities that fill our calendars.

It is my prayer during this busy time that we may all remain focused on the manger. Parents, it is our responsibility to our children to show Christ's love and the reason for the season.

As usual, there are many things going on with our youth groups during this busy month. Last Sunday, several kids joined together to go to the drive-thru nativity at King's Chapel. Of course we went to Taco Bell to eat and then we went to Cascade Park for the parade of lights.

December 10<sup>th</sup> is Breakfast in Bethlehem. I'm sure there is a huge page in the redeeming times so I will just say, "Kids, you are needed to help with this ministry also." If you are available, let Brad Marshall or myself know and we will transform you into the streets of

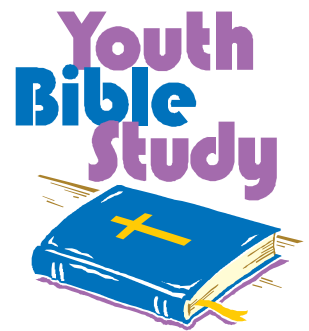
Bethlehem where you may work in a kitchen, a temple, or a fisherman's shop. Just let us know if you can help.

December 11 is the church wide Christmas dinner. We will not have youth group so please join your family and your Christian family for a wonderful evening.

The jr. high Christmas dinner at my house scheduled for Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. I will reschedule as soon as I'm able.

If you haven't confirmed if you are coming to Niagara, please let me know ASAP. We have a very important meeting scheduled for kids and parents on Thurs., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please make every effort to attend. To our congregation - please be praying for our Niagara trip. Many lives will be touched and even transformed.

The before school breakfast/Bible study has started. Jr./Sr. high youth groups will meet every Tuesday morning at Ryder's Restaurant in New Wilmington at 7am. If you need a ride, please call Lori Jones at 724-658-6304.



If there are any kids who are available to help place and light the luminarias on Christmas Eve, please be at the Church at 6pm.



May you all have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful season praising and worshipping our amazing Father!

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*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shown round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said*



*unto them. "Fear not, for behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."*

*Luke 2: 8 -12*

# **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD GOD'S GREATEST GIFT**



**BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM  
DECEMBER 10, 2011-8:30 - 11:30  
NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Corner Woodland Drive and Marr Road**

# New Bedford, Pa 16140

**Visit the village of Bethlehem, live animals for petting, a Christmas movie, two craft rooms, face painting, a puppet show, etc. In the village one can visit the stable, the synagogue school, the basket shop, the pottery shop, the net mending show, Mary's kitchen, the carpentry shop, a food tasting booth to taste food eaten in Christ's time, the village well and a hide and fur shop.**

**Everyone is welcome!! \$5.00 per family.**

**Breakfast served till 10:30A.M.**



The Kids Corner

Every year it seems the Christmas season passes by quickly, I think it is because of all the activities that are planned in the month. Please consider adding the following activities to your calendar for the month of December. I would love if you would join us in the activities that the church as planned to celebrate the birth of Jesus .



\*\*\*\*\*The Children's Christmas Play will be on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. There will be practices to get ready for the play. We welcome all kids to participate in the play. There is room for everyone to be part of the play. Also, we are looking for kids who are gifted with the talent of playing an instrument and would like to share that talent during the service. Please see Julie Whiting or Dawn Harris if you have any questions.

\*\*\*\*\* Breakfast in Bethlehem is a great time for the whole family. Step back in time and journey through the market place of Bethlehem. Enjoy a puppet show, crafts, and of course, breakfast.

\*\*\*\*\*Angel Tree Christmas shopping is on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to go shopping with me to purchase gifts for families in need. The bus will leave at 10:30 and return at approximately 1:00. We will go shopping at Ollie's and have lunch at Wendy's. Children will need money to purchase their own lunch at Wendy's. Adults are needed to accompany the kids while shopping. Please let Dawn know if you are available to go shopping.



**December 7** —KidsZone

**December 10**—Breakfast in Bethlehem

Play practice 11:30-12:30

**December 14**—KidsZone

**December 17**—Play Practice 9:00-10:30

Angel Tree Christmas Shopping 10:30-1:00

**December 21**—KidsZone

**December 24** – Christmas Eve Service

**December 25**—Christmas Play 10:30am Service

**December 28**—NO KidsZone



Do you love God? Do you enjoy children? Do you want an opportunity to share God's love with 12 great Kindergarten kids? Are you available on Wednesday from 2:30-4:40? If you answered 'YES', then there is an

opportunity for you to serve. A Kindergarten teacher is needed for KidsZone!!!! Please contact Dawn if you can help in any way, even to be a substitute for a week. Thank you!

Children At Worship Teaching Schedule

Dec. 3—Brandy McAllen

Dec. 11—Dawn Harris

Dec. 18—Amy Geisinger

