

Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

As all of you know on the 22nd we will have a Congregational Meeting to decide on whether we, as a church, should seek a new path. The Elders are recommending we make the decision to follow this new path.

Throughout this process I have served as a resource person. The Elders would ask me questions and I would find the answers. The Denominational Study Team (Dan and Lori) have provided the leadership along with the Elders. I want to say, although I did not vote at the Session meeting and therefore did not sign the letter sent to the members of the church, I am in agreement with the recommendation.

I want to take a moment to review the goals of the Session. These goals were established by the Session and were shared with you in the "Questions and Answers" Paper you received in the "Packet."

Goal # 1. "To maintain the unity of New Bedford Church." This goal is at the center of every decision the Elders have made. We love our church. This is our family of believers. We care for each other, we worship together, we laugh together and we cry together. We have diversity. We are not all the same. At times we disagree on issues. But we are one in Christ. It is very clear to the Elders that the best way to maintain our unity is to go down a new path together.

Goal # 2. "To remain faithful to the written Word of God." Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"(John 14). 2 Timothy 3:16 states, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." We believe the words of Jesus and Paul. We desire to be on a path that the authority of Scripture is a central truth.

Goal # 3 "To lead growth in our church. This includes individual growth and growth as a congregation." It is not the Lords will to be stagnant. This is true for individuals and for a church. We are to "go into all the world and make disciples." We hear ths command in Eph. 4, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." The Elders believe a new path will help us to grow as a church and as individuals.

Goal # 4. "To be a faithful witness to the love and truth of Jesus Christ in our community." As the "Reasons for Change" paper outlines, the Elders believe a conflicted witness regarding the nature of Christ, the path of salvation, the lifestyle of church leadership, and the value of life compromises our message to our neighbors and friends. Jesus commands that we be the "light to the world." The Elders believe a new path will give greater opportunity to share His light.

I want to close this letter with a Bible text that came to my mind as I was praying about what to write. I thought of the story found in Joshua chapter 2-4. The nation of Israel was standing at the bank of the river Jordan. They had been here once before forty years earlier and decided to not cross into the Promised Land. The spies returned to Joshua and described a land "full of milk and honey." Joshua and the Elders recommended crossing into the Promised land. I am sure the people once again hesitated. Over the river was unknown land. The time in the Wilderness was not always easy... but it was known.. water and manna had been provided. Obstacles were ahead in the new land. After three days of prayer, the people of Israel followed the Elders across the miraculously dried up Jordan into Israel. They were blessed (and still are today) by the Lord.

We too stand at our river Jordan. We have sent out scouts into the new land and the reports are very good. We have some answers.... but there is still a level of uncertainty. Because it is a new path, there is a level of uncomfortableness. There will be obstacles. But our Elders are leading the way. They believe the Lord is leading them! They invite all of us to cross the river with them. We firmly believe we will discover the blessing of the Lord.

I close with this invitation. Ask questions! Call me if you would like to talk. Call Dan or Lori to share concerns and questions. Call Jack Hanes, the representative of Shenango Presbytery assigned to our church (724 946 8166). We desire to answer any question you have and to hear any concerns you may have. Join us at the Town Hall meeting at 9:30 on the 22nd and the Congregational meeting at 10:30 on the 22nd.

Yours In Christ,

Doug

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR DENOMINATION CHANGE

All dates are very tentative. Some are based on decisions of NBPC Congregation and Session. Others are dependant upon approval by Presbytery of Shenango (PCUSA) or the Presbytery of the Alleghenies (EPC)

- January 14th 8:30 Officer Training. Deacons and Elders will study ordination vows of the EPC.
- January 22nd 9:30 Congregational Town Hall. Opportunity after Early Worship Service for questions and comments. Adult, College and High School Sunday School will attend the Town Hall meeting.
- January 22nd 10:30 Congregational Meeting to vote on motion "Shall the NBPC request dismissal to another Reformed Body of its choice?" (Motion determined by the Presbytery of Shenango)
- January 26th 7:00 Session Meeting Study EPC material. Call Congregational Meeting for March 25th
- February 3rd -4th Elder Retreat at Seneca Hills to prepare for meeting with EPC Committee on Church Relations
- Feb/March Congregation Town Hall Meeting with Pastor from EPC
- Feb/March Session meets with Presbytery of Shenango Dismissal Consultation Team to arrange final details of dismissal including financial gift for Presbytery.
- February 23rd 7:00 Session Meeting. Continue preparing for Meeting with EPC Committee
- February 25th EPC Presbytery meeting in Portersville. Elders and any one else who desires attend as observers
- March 22nd Session Meeting. Continue preparing for meeting with EPC Committee. Make motion to present to Shenango Presbytery
- March 25th 9:30 Congregational Town Hall Meeting to discuss EPC and other questions
- March 25th 10:30 Congregational Meeting to vote on motion "Shall the NBPC request dismissal to the EPC?"
- April 3rd Meeting of Shenango Presbytery Council. Present motion from Session seeking dismissal and request time on the agenda at the Shenango Presbytery Meeting on April 24th
- April 14th Elders meet with EPC Committee and receive recommendation for congregational admittance into the EPC
- April 24th Shenango Presbytery Seek Dismissal from the PCUSA upon acceptance into the EPC Pastor Doug requests removal from the PCUSA upon acceptance in the EPC
- April 27th Pastor Doug is examined by the Presbytery of the Alleghenies Ministerial Relations Committee. Receives Recommendation for Ordination
- April 27-28th EPC Presbytery Meeting in New Castle. NBPC accepted as church within the EPC. Pastor Doug examined on floor of Presbytery and granted ordination in EPC. Process for dismissal from the PCUSA and acceptance into the EPC is complete
- May Worship Celebration Elders/Deacons take ordination vows into EPC. Pastor Doug takes vows and is ordained into the EPC

SESSION NOTES

Our worship services will be back to our regular meeting times.

8:30AM Contemporary Service
9:15A.M. Sunday School
11:00A.M. Traditional Worship Service

On January 14th from 8:30A.M. - noon we will hold Officer Training for elders and deacons.

On January 15th at the 10:30A.M. service the newly elected elders and deacons will be installed

On January 22nd at 10:30A.M. a very important meeting will be held. This will be preceded by a **Town Hall Meeting**

at 9:30A.M. A vote will be taken at 10:30A.M. by members re: seeking dismissal from the Presbyterian Church USA. High School, College and Adult Sunday School classes will be in the Town Hall meeting.

Monday, January 23, 2012

7:00P.M. Deacons Meeting

Thursday, January 26th, 2012

7:00P.M. Session Meeting

Sunday, January 29th Following 10:30A.M. Worship Service the regular Congregational Meeting will be held.

February 3 & 4 Training Retreat for Elders

7:00P.M. Friday to 7:00P.M. Saturday

These are very important meetings and we hope you will mark these dates on your calendar.

Thank You to Tim Pogozelec and Art Spence for their service as Elders and to Helen Bicehouse, Judy Stuhlmann, Diane McConnell and Helen Ruby for their service as Deacons

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen” 1 Peter 4:10-11

Newly elected elders are: Don (Sam) Jones and Duane Boyles.

Deacons elected are: Larry Bluedorn, Martha Boyer, Laura Harshbarger, Marilyn McConahy

At the December meeting Session recommended dismissal from the PC(USA) denomination.

All chairmen or secretaries of Boards or Committees should have their Annual Reports in by January 23rd to be included in the Annual Report.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST AT 6:30P.M.

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR LIFE

This will be the 26th Annual “Light A Candle for Life” to be held at Kennedy Square in New Castle.

One thousand candles will be lit

and Rev. David Bell from First

United Brethren Church will

lead prayers and Abigail Walker

will sing God Bless America. At

7:30P.M. there will be a prayer Service at First

Christian Church. There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information.

THANK YOU TO Brad and Marti Marshall for

preparing and cooking the scalloped potato

and ham dinner held this past Sunday. It was

a lot of work and thank you again and to all

those who helped in any way.

CHANGES COMING

There are changes coming to the Shepherd Program. It will be changed to a Caring Heart program. Elders and Deacons will now concentrate their care and support to families and individuals in need of extra care and ministry.

More information will follow next month.

Session met with Bob Stauffer, an Evangelical Presbyterian Church pastor from Slippery Rock for a time of questions and answers.



Light A Candle

For Life

BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

Jakki Gardner-----1
 Lois Adams-----5
 Philip Book-----5
 Shirley Janoski-----5
 Ashley Fox-----5
 Nancy Bretz-----6
 Joel Philips-----6
 Marilyn Wallace-----8
 Loren Allison-----8
 Brenda Miller -----9
 Bob Slagle-----10
 Diane McConnell-----12
 Linda Feil-----12
 Joan Hoffman-----13
 Alan Jones-----14
 Rosie Moore-----19
 Willie Moore-----19
 Amanda Miller-----20
 Mikalyn Duffy-----20
 Lori Smith-----24
 Michael Duffy-----26
 Julie Whiting-----26
 Mackenzie McCarthy---26
 Morgan Whiting-----27
 Joyce Goist-----27
 Taylor Allison-----28
 Tiffany Bell-----30
 Toni Reynolds-----31



MONDAY FUN GROUP



Join us for the Monday Fun Group which begins Monday, January 16, 2012 from 1:00P.M. - 4:00P.M. at the New Bedford Presbyterian Church.

The group is for anyone over 50 or over and open to anyone in the community. A variety of games and activities are planned.

DID YOU KNOW

A sheep rolled “log rolled” down the steps of the stage at the Christmas Pageant.....
 One of our Deacons was “shifting” hams at Giant Eagle.

SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt sympathy to the Boyer family at the passing of Gerald Boyer. Our sincere love and sympathy to Bernice and Dakota and also his brothers and sisters.

We also send our sincere sympathy to GayAnn Miller at the passing of her mother this past week.

Our sincere sympathy to the Stowe/Wallace families at the passing of Kellie Stowe. She was a friend to many in our congregation and a niece of Doug and Marilyn Wallace.

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“Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”
Psalm 30:4b

Please remember in prayer the people who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have ask for prayer.

Nancy Templeton-----Overlook Medical Clinic
 Shirley Cramer-----Home
 Chuck Ruby-----Avalon Nursing Home
 Jo Ruby-----Home
 Marie Snyder-----Home
 George Snyder-----Home
 Bob & Jean Rishel-----Shenango Home (Bob 315) Jean (240)
 Denny Eppinger-----Home
 Dot Jones-----Avalon Nursing Home
 Don Jones-----Home
 Cathy (Hetrick) Fox-----Home
 Jim Greene (Gary’s father)---Receiving treatments

BENEFIT SPAGHETTI DINNER

A benefit Spaghetti dinner will be held for Cathy Fox on January 15th from noon till 4:00P.M. It will be held at the Pulaski Twp. Fire Hall (Station # 2) on Evergreen Road in New Bedford. A large meal costs \$7.00 and a small is \$4.00/ There is also a bake sale, Chinese Auction and a 50-50 raffle. Proceeds go to the Cathy Fox Donation Fund at Huntington Bank. Cathy was severely injured in a car crash. She is home recuperating but needs more surgery and will not be walking for many months.



THANK YOU

My heartfelt thanks to all you who showed such love and compassion at a difficult time in our lives, the passing of our husband, father, and brother, Gerald Boyer. Thank you for the visits, food sent in, cards, calls and expressions of sympathy ; to the Deacons for the wonderful meal following the funeral, and to Pastor Doug for his visits. Your kindness, love and support mean so much. **-Bernice Boyer**

Thank You to Julie Whiting and helpers who directed the Christmas Pageant on Christmas morning.

Thank you to my circle for the soups brought in for me, and the flowers and cards. To the Deacons for the card, and those who sent me cards to get well, and to June for checking on me.

Toni and family

BOB MILLER AND GLENN HEPLER LIVE IN SAME TOWN---GO TO THE SAME CHURCH AND FIND OUT THEY ARE COUSINS.

To those who get this on e-mail you will not see the picture as the scanner won't work

L. Glenn Hepler R. Robert Miller
Picture taken at Mt. Tabor Cemetery in Dry Ridge, PA
(Armstrong County).

WOMEN'S NOTES

The Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 9:00A.M. at the church

The Rebekah Circle will meet at the church on Monday, January 16th at 6:30P.M.

The Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, January 16th at the church at 7:00P.M.

(Note our new meeting time)

Congratulations to Loren Allison on her graduation from Penn State University with a degree in English



Congratulations also to Carrie Bretz on her graduation from Clarion University with a degree in Accounting.

There are two people who recently discovered they have more in common than their church. The common bond is Lewis C. Shaffer born in 1840. Lewis married Caroline Miller born in 1842. She was the sister of Christian M. Miller. Here is where the relationship merges. Lewis Shaffer's daughter Lola married Webster C. Hepler and they had a son Glenn. Christian M. Miller and his wife Susan has a son Amos Gilbert Miller and his son is named Robert. Glenn and Robert are cousins. They enjoy remembering homesteads and friends of the past. Caroline Miller Shaffer is Glenn's grandmother and Bob's great aunt.

. Picture taken on 11/25/11.



Celebrate Families

YOUTH NEWS

As usual, December was a very busy month. On December 4th, we took our annual trip to King's Chapel to view the drive-thru nativity with our mandatory stop at Taco Bell. We then drove to Cascade Park to see the Festival of Lights. We had a great time and I thank Tom McAllen for driving a car load.

I would like to thank all the kids who came to help with Breakfast in Bethlehem. This continues to be an amazing ministry to our community and many hands are needed.

December 27th-30th was our annual Niagara Trip for the Joshua

Revolution Conference. We had a total of 17 people that loaded the church bus and went to Niagara Falls, NY to spend 4 days worshipping our Lord, Jesus Christ. We have seen some changes occur and are unsure if we will be going back to Niagara again next year. However, I do want to let you know that I do believe that lives were again touched this year. We thank our congregation for your support for this youth event and I pray that you will continue to keep the youth that went with us on our trip in your prayers.



I apologize that I was not able to fit in a Christmas dinner for our youth in the month of December. I promised the kids we would still have it. I've scheduled a jr/sr high dinner on Sunday, January 22nd from 5pm-8pm at my house. Please let me know if you're coming so I know how much food to prepare.

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IT'S TIME FOR SENECA HILLS!!!

Our annual youth retreat is scheduled for Feb. 3rd-5th. The cost is \$65.00 per person and \$25.00 for each additional child in your family. Do NOT let cost be the reason you don't come. Paint ball will again be offered for an additional fee of \$20.00 for 2 hours of play. There are forms in my office. I will NOT be in church on the 15th, so help yourself to as many forms as you need. If you have any questions, please call.



I am looking in to a ski trip for the end of February. This will be sponsored by the youth but all will be welcome. Let me know if there is any interest!



Thank you to Julie Whiting for a wonderful, "entertaining" Christmas Pageant.

Geniene Jones-
Director of Youth Ministry

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it."*
Proverbs 22:6

The Kids Korner



Happy 2012!!! I pray as you travel through this year, you ask for God's help to follow the plan that He has for your life. When you don't know which way to turn, listen for God's voice to give you direction. Isaiah 30:21- Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk it". Walk with God in 2012!

January Events

Jan. 4-KidsZone

Jan. 11-KidsZone

Jan. 18-KidsZone

Jan. 25-KidsZone

Jan. 29-KidsZone kids singing 8:30 church service



Just a reminder, in the event that school is cancelled because of snow, KidsZone will not be in session that day.

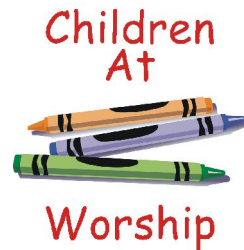
Children At Worship Teaching Schedule

Jan. 8-Dawn Harris

Jan.15-Amy Geisinger

Jan. 22-Dawn Harris

Jan. 29-Gisela Dieter



Urgent Need for Help with KidsZone!!

Please contact Dawn ASAP if you can assist, even for a day, for a week, or for a month! KidsZone continues through the month of March. There is a need for a teacher, substitute teachers, and a bus monitor. Please be in prayer that God will touch the heart His faithful servants to help with this ministry.

Contact me at 330-881-8110 or Dawnhnbpc@aol.com



Item needed for Children At Worship---Colored Newspaper Comics (from the Sunday paper). Please leave in Dawn's office. Thank you.

A great, big **THANK YOU** to Julie Whiting for directing the Children's Christmas Pageant. 'I didn't think it would happen like this' was the perfect play to show how God had planned exactly how it was suppose to happen! Jesus birth was perfect in every way! Thank you Julie for your time and commitment with the pageant!!



Dawn Harris, Director of Youth Ministry

