

**REDEEMING TIMES**  
**NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**151 WOODLAND DRIVE**  
**PULASKI, PA 16143**  
**DECEMBER 2010**



Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

Christmas 2010! I love Christmas. I love the worship services. I love the dinners (both church and family). I love the music (I am especially looking forward to the Christmas Eve Cantata). I love the message of Christ's birth. I love the family events and traditions. Allow me to share a quote I read from James Dobson. He writes....

Our traditions aren't limited to the menu alone, of course. During family devotions in Advent, we take the Christmas cards we receive on that day, read them aloud, and pray for the people who sent them.

On Christmas Eve, we enjoy a dinner of Chinese food each year. (Don't ask me why.... the tradition has simply evolved.) Afterwards, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins join us around the fireplace, and read from the Bible. After discussing the passages, we lower the lights and my wife, Shirley, gives each member of the family a votive family candle. She explains as we take our turn lighting the candle that the light represents Jesus who was born into a dark world to give us eternal life (Isaiah 9:2). As each person lights his candle, he or she shares one blessing he or she is especially thankful for during the past year, and sometimes he or she is asking God to do in his or her life the following year. We then blow out the candles and end the evening in prayer.

We all have family traditions. From the time my children were toddlers we would always begin our day on Christmas morning reading the Christmas story from the Bible. Two years ago, as Erin and Paul brought Alex (my grandson) up to our house to open presents on Christmas afternoon, I reached for the first present and Erin said, "wait a minute Dad, we need to read from the Bible first." Traditions continue and are passed down to the next generation.

We all have traditions. They are wonderful. The question I ask is this... do a number of your family traditions point to the truth of Jesus Christ. We are in a world that is saturated with stories of Santa and stories of the "Christmas Spirit" (just watch any Christmas special on T.V.) but we rarely hear the true meaning of Christmas. Truthfully there is no "Sprit of Christmas" without the Spirit of Christ being present. I encourage each person either continue or begin traditions as a family that point to Jesus Christ

The Runyan family would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed and merry Christmas.

In His Name,

Doug



## YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH

Our church is beginning a search for a full time Director of Children's and Youth Ministries. If you know of anyone who would be interested in the position please contact pastor Doug and a Position Description and Salary information will be sent. Also, please keep this process in your prayers. We are trusting God to bring a person to us that will share their love for Christ with our children and young people. Pray for Doug Runyan, Geniene Jones, Gary Fulkman, Brenda Hostetler, Mary Beckman, Doug Houk and Gisela Dieter as they form a Search Committee to find, interview and make recommendations to the Session.

### **SESSION NEWS**

Session met on Thursday night, November 18<sup>th</sup>.  
This month Session will meet on December 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Please note change of date.

Several Dates that you will want to keep in mind for December are:

December 11, **BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM**  
(See details included in this newsletter)

December 12  
**CHURCH WIDE CHRISTMAS DINNER**

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
**DEACONS PACK CHRISTMAS BASKETS**

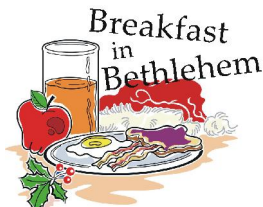
December 19<sup>th</sup>  
**YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

December 24<sup>th</sup>  
**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE**

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Our Christmas Eve Worship Service will include the choir singing numbers from the Cantata "**Comfort and Joy**". There will also be other special music. We will have the candlelight service. Make this a time to come and worship the newborn King.

**BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
8:30a.m.



### **DEACONS NEWS**

Deacons will be packing boxes for several families in our area. We are collecting food staples to help with filling the baskets. All food items should be to the church before December 18<sup>th</sup> when we will be packing the boxes. We will have a regular meeting before we begin to pack the boxes. All newly elected deacons are invited to come and help with this project.



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Again this year we will have the poinsettia tree in the vestibule. If anyone would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of loves ones, please use the sign up blank at the bottom of this page. The price is \$8.00 per poinsettia.



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#### **POINSETTIA ORDER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

How Many \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Price \$8>00                      Paid

## BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

Adam Marshall-----	1
Diana Halt-----	2
Betty Komar-----	5
Jim Shick-----	7
Kyle Jones-----	7
Jim Rishell-----	9
Alexis Jones-----	9
Chuck Bell-----	9
Bob Bell-----	9
Bob Miller-----	10
Caroletta Doverspike-----	11
Evelyn Exley-----	14
Jo Ruby-----	14
Wanda Boyles-----	16
Addie Moore-----	17
Joe Feil-----	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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There are some addresses people have been asking for and they are as follows

### Servicemen:

Allen and Carrie Jones  
1029 B Cedar Avenue  
GF AFB 58204

Adam & Bethann Runyan  
102 Canon Drive  
Biloxi, MS 39531



Dan and Rachel Bobic are in the process of being transferred to SanDiego. There new address will follow next month.

Ariana Carr is an exchange student and would love to hear from her church family Her address is:

Ariana Carr  
c/o Pires Family  
RUA Jequitiba Horto  
Ipatinga Minas Gecais  
Brasil 35160306

## THANK YOU

Thank you to members and friends who remembered me with cards, visits and especially prayers following my recent surgery. A special thank you to Diana Halt and Mary Beckman for being at the hospital with Al during the surgery. Your kindness and good wishes mean so much to both of us.

Norma & Al Belgie

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Thank you for your good wishes, concerns and especially for all your prayers for our grand-daughter Katee following her accident. She had her stitches out and her arm is healing well. We thank God for this miracle. Paul & Nancy Cummings

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John and Toni Reynolds thank Margie Matthews and Laura Harshberger and all those who helped us after the bazaar with tables and clean up. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

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The family of James F. Boyer would like to thank our Church family, friends and neighbors and Pastor Doug who cared so much by the calls and visits prior to Jim's passing on October 14, 2010. Words cannot express our appreciation and gratitude to all of you for your thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement that so comforted us. We know the Lord placed each one of you into our lives for a purpose. Psalm 126:3 "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy."

Martha B. Boyer and Family

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We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has sent prayers, cards, and words of encouragement our way. You have made dealing with our loss a little easier. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful family through Christ. Thank you to you all. Dan and Rachel Bobic

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Thank you for the beautiful cards and good wishes for our 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Your thoughtfulness, visits and prayers are treasured and appreciated very much.

Glenn and Verda Hepler & family

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Jane Eppinger has been staying with her son who is very ill in Colorado. We are asking that you remember both Jane and Denny in prayer and with greeting cards. Jane Eppinger 2826 Fenton Street. Denver , CO 80227

Please remember in prayer the people who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have ask for prayer. It is a good time to remember each of them with a Christmas greeting.

- Verda Hepler-----Home
- Nancy Templeton-----Overlook
- Gertie Bretz-----Home
- Shirley Cramer-----Home
- Chuck Ruby-----Avalon Nursing Home
- Jo Ruby-----Home
- George Snyder-----Home
- Bob Rishel-----Shenango Home
- Jeanine Keesey-----Receiving treatments
- Gisela Dieter's father in Panama----Recuperating from broken hip
- Joe Canzano (Angela Houk's cousin) cancer returned
- Jean Rishel-----Recuperating at home
- Denny Eppinger-----Hospitalized in Colorado
- Jeanine Keesey-----Home

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New Bedford Garden Club has supplied our church with live Christmas Wreaths for the main entrance for over 25 years. They are no longer able to do that. Shirley Snyder has decorated 2 new artificial wreaths for our church entrance. We want to thank the Garden Club for their generosity for the past 25 plus years and Shirley Snyder for her beautiful donation of the new wreaths.



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**CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS**

Friday, December 10, 2010 at 7:00P.M. Doors open at 6:00P.M. Advance tickets \$9.00 and \$12.00 at the door. Amid snow-topped pines nestled in the white stillness of winter, come celebrate Christmas at Seneca Hills. Join us for an evening of worship with Greg and Rebecca Sparks as they weave together a tapestry of Christmas music old and new celebrating the birth of Emmanuel—God with us. Concert will be followed by a holiday reception. Contact Pastor Doug if you are interested.



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**CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Church Wide Christmas Dinner. Time is **5:00P.M.** The program for the evening will be "PRAISE".

Please bring a dish according to the first initial of your last name:

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

Furnished will be Ham, Parsley Potatoes, Corn, Rolls and Drink



*Christmas Dinner*

Everyone is invited to come for this festive occasion.

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DECEMBER 19 6:00P.M.

Youth Worship Service and the children's Christmas Pageant. The youth will be singing songs for the Season.

The Christmas Pageant will be presented by the Kids from KidsZone. Come out and enjoy this special evening presented by the children and youth.



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**A.O.L. IS BEING REVIVED.**

On January 15<sup>th</sup> we will be having Wild Game Night. All you hunters and wanna be hunters get your pictures, or the real things and bring them to game night. Time is 6:00P.M.



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**BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM**

Bring your children to this place made into a village where Jesus grew up. Breakfast will be at 8:30A.M. here will be rooms where Mary baked bread and Joseph's carpenter shop. Live animals will be here, a puppet show and a room where children make a craft. We are asking for a donation of \$3.00. It's a wonderful time for you to make a memory for your child.

## YOUTH NEWS

I think I say this every year, but I'm going to say it again. I can't believe that Christmas is here and 2010 is coming to a close. Before I begin with the "youth news", I want to challenge each one of you parents. Take time out of this busy season to truly focus on the real meaning of Christmas with your family. Get an advent devotional or go on-line to find something that you can do each day with your children to prepare them, and yourself, for the coming of our King! We know how lost we can get in the busyness but this will truly help us to stay focused.

November was a fun month for KidsZone. We went Christmas caroling at the Overlook. The kids were well received and I don't think I've seen a group in the past 6 years interact with the residents the way these kids did. I was so proud of each one of them as they sang their hearts out and talked with many of the residents. They also made Christmas cards and passed them out.

This past Saturday, 16 kids went to lunch at Wendy's and then we went to Ollie's to do some Christmas shopping for kids in our own community. This is a wonderful opportunity for the kids to realize how blessed they are.

December 22 will be our last KidsZone until the new year. We will board the bus and go caroling to some of our shut-ins. If you know of anyone who would like to hear some carolers, please let me know. Sadly, there are many people who are ill or just need lifted up during this Christmas season.

Jr./Sr. High went to Olympic Fun Center in November. This outing was sponsored by Lawrence County Youth Ministries and only cost \$3 for the entire evening and even included pizza!!!

December will, of course, be a very busy month. This past Sunday, 14 kids went to Taco Bell and then we went to the drive-thru nativity at King's Chapel. We had a great time and the driver's were thankful that the snow hadn't quite come yet.

Breakfast in Bethlehem is this Saturday and helpers are needed. If you're available, please let myself or Brad Marshall know. This is an amazing outreach to our community and it takes many people to make it a success.

There will be no youth group on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. This is our Christmas dinner at the church, so we will attend the dinner with our families and listen to "Praise" after our meal.

Saturday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm will be our Christmas dinner at my house for our Jr. High youth group. Please let me know if you're coming so I know how many people to prepare for.

Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm is our next youth worship service. This will be combined with our kids' Christmas pageant. After the service and snacks, we will go out in to the community and go Christmas caroling.

Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm will be our Christmas dinner for the Sr. High and college-age kids at my house. Again, please let me know if you're coming so I have enough food. (I've seen you all eat!!!)

NIAGARA TRIP!!!!!! The Niagara trip is Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. FORMS AND MONEY **MUST** BE TURNED IN BY THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 12<sup>TH</sup>. The ticket price goes up next week. The price is \$80 for one child or \$140 per family. If you have any questions, let me know.

I would like to thank the Session and our congregation to begin the search for a FULL TIME youth director. I am so excited to see what Christ has in store for us. A full time person is truly needed and I pray that we will begin to see things get done that I just didn't have time to do. Please pray for the committee and for the next person that we know God has already chosen. Please pray for our youth also. Some are concerned about the upcoming change, so encourage them and join our youth as we prepare for this transition.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU DURING THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND IN THE NEW YEAR!!!

May yours be the joy of the angels  
proclaiming that first Christmas day  
May yours be the faith of the wise men  
as the journeyed where Jesus lay  
May yours be the awe of the shepherds  
as they followed a voice from above  
May yours be the blessing of Christmas  
and always, the gift of HIS love!!!

