

**REDEEMING TIMES**  
**NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**FEBRUARY 2012**



Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church

I will use this letter to keep you up to date on the change that is taking place in our church. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, by a 129 to 3 vote you decided to seek dismissal from the PCUSA. Thank you for your participation in this vote. Thank you for clearly choosing the path the Lord has placed before us.

Although that was only a little over two weeks ago much has happened since the vote. The next step for our congregation is to decide and vote on our next denominational home. Since the meeting, the Elders of the church have meet for over nine hours to discuss and prepare for our next steps. The Elders stated earlier it appears that we fit best in the EPC. After another very comprehensive study and discussion the Elders have once again discerned that the EPC is where we want to go.

Why are we spending so much time in discussion? Truthfully, the EPC is being swamped with churches seeking to leave the PCUSA. The leaders of the EPC are very clear that they do not want churches to join them just to “escape” from the PCUSA. The EPC clearly defines who they are and they want churches to join them who desire to be part of their family. Our Elders need to agree to the “Essentials of Faith” and to the “Westminster Confession of Faith.” They have published a “study guide” to help church Sessions. After nine hours of group study (and some more hours already scheduled) the Elders enthusiastically desire to take this step.

In preparing for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> vote Dan and Lori shared some information about the EPC. We want to continue this process. We have scheduled two additional “Town Hall Meetings.” The first one is Sunday evening at 6:00 on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We have invited the Rev. Bob Stauffer, an EPC Pastor from Slippery Rock, to join us this evening to share information and answer questions. Our Deacons are arranging this dinner and will share more details in the future. We will have a second and final (yeah) Town Hall Meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 (during the Sunday School Hour). This will be the final time to gain information and ask questions.

The Presbytery of Shenango requires two Congregational meetings two months apart. Therefore, the Elders have called a Congregational Meeting for 10:30 AM on March 25<sup>th</sup> to make our final decision to join the EPC. Let me stress this is a critically important meeting. We once again need a quorum of about 85 people and we need an 80% affirmative vote. Please, plan on being at this meeting! This will be our final vote. Active Members will receive official notice of this meeting in the mail next week (this also is required).

We have also requested “Transitional Status” in the EPC. This also is required by the Presbytery of the Shenango. This means that when the Presbytery of Shenango dismisses us we will immediately be part of the EPC. There will be no time between denominations. If the schedule works out we will move from “Transitional Status” to being a full member of the EPC after just three days. We hope this will all take place the last week of April. The EPC has already conditionally agreed to this time schedule. We will not know if the Presbytery of Shenango will agree to this schedule until after our vote in March.

I too am in the midst of a process that will allow my ordination to change from the PCUSA to the EPC immediately upon dismissal by the Presbytery of Shenango hopefully the last week in April.

I close with this observation. This has been a time of stress for me, for the Elders, and for our entire congregation. But this has also been a time of growth and joy for me, for the Elders and I pray, for all of you. We have had the opportunity to examine our core beliefs in our Lord Jesus Christ. As a Session and in our Town Hall Meetings we have spent hours talking about the written Word of God. The Elders have spent a great deal of time talking about our dreams we have for our congregation. We are making this move so that we can better serve our Lord! We are making this move so we can be a better witness to the truth and love of our Lord Jesus Christ in our community! Please join in the excitement of this move. I believe we are, both in our belief system and in our relationships, coming home as we enter the EPC.. As always, if you have questions please contact me.

In Christ

Doug

## SESSION NEWS

To prepare for the Elder examination before joining the new denomination (Evangelical Presbyterian Church) the elders met at Seneca Hills Conference Center for a Retreat. Friday evening was the second of seven sessions required for the elders. Saturday there were three more sessions. It was a time of learning, studying, vision and fellowship.



Elder  
Retreat

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On Sunday, January 22, 2012 the congregation had their second Town Hall Meeting regarding leaving the Presbyterian (USA) denomination. Following the meeting a vote was taken to determine if we should leave or not. The vote was 129 in favor of leaving and 3 to remain the same. We needed to have 35% of our active members to vote and 80% of that number to vote in favor of leaving. A representative from Shenango Presbytery was present to over see the voting.

### NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING



On Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00P.M. there will be another Town Hall Meeting regarding joining the EPC denomination. There will be a representative from the EPC

denomination here.

There will be a time of questions and answers. The meeting will be preceded by a dinner at 6:00P.M. We hope you will come out for this time of fellowship, questions and answers.

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We are officially calling our second Congregational meeting for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30A.M. to vote on the following motion. "Shall the New Bedford Presbyterian Church (USA) request dismissal to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?" The exact wording of the motion is given to us by the process and Procedures Paper of Shenango Presbytery. At this meeting we will again need to have a quorum of 35% of our active membership and an 80% affirmative vote. It is critically important for you to be at this meeting. This is the last official step we need to take as a Congregation in this process

At their last meeting the Administration Committee examined the rules for use of our church facilities. They have made some changes and the new rules are enclosed with this newsletter.

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A check for the amount of the Christmas Offering (\$2700.00) was sent to Matt and Stacey Ayars for their use to help students who were having a hard time paying their tuition at Emmaus Bible Seminary in Haiti.



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## DEACON NOTES

At their reorganization meeting in January, Glenda Fulkman was chosen at moderator and

Jane Eppinger as vice moderator

## *VALENTINE'S DINNER*

*FEBRUARY 11 6:00 - 9:00PM*

*Please join us for an evening of fun, music food and fellowship. It will be a lasagna dinner. The band "D Major" will be playing for your entertainment. Everyone 18 and older is welcome. There is no charge but a donation will be accepted.*

*Babysitting at the church can be provided Call Angela Houk at 724-656-8079 for reservations for the dinner and babysitting This is being sponsored by the Evangelism Committee*

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Please reserve March 16 & 17 on your calendar. That is the dates for our Couples Retreat at the Holiday Inn Express at West Middlesex, PA. More details will be coming



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**BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY**

Nancy Phillis.....	02
Bea Brindza.....	02
Dawn Harris.....	03
Paul Cummings.....	03
Megan Allison.....	03
Roberta Morehead.....	03
Harry Cornman.....	04
Austin Whiting.....	04
Pam Liddell.....	05
Martha Boyer.....	07
Nancy Rudzik.....	07
Marti Marshall.....	07
Leonard Halt.....	08
Laura Harshbarger.....	08
Shirley Snyder.....	15
Sis Hartzell.....	15
Donald Pence.....	26
Donald Craig.....	27



4801 Sylvester Rd.  
Webb, IA 51366



**Marissa Carr** was one of 41 students from Westminster College to be accepted to go to the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in March. She will be traveling to Weber University in Utah to present the research she conducted for her Senior Capstone Project.

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**DID YOU KNOW:**

- Margie Matthews got good news from her latest test results
- The Elders Retreat was a great time of learning, studying and fellowship
- The choir has started rehearsing for a cantata for the Easter Season



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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

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Gary Greene's father has been taking treatments and ill for some time. If you would like to send him a card his address is as follows.  
Jim Greene

In September I was involved in a terrible car crash. The road to recovery has not been an easy one but we are grateful for every measure of healing that has taken place. The benefit spaghetti dinner was an overwhelming success and we thank all who had anything at all to make it that way and to all who attended. I also thank you at New Bedford Presbyterian Church and to everyone who prayed for me, for the lap robe and for your donation.



Cathy and Ron Fox

I want to thank everyone for the cards, visits and concern while I was hospitalized . I especially thank you for the prayers for my recovery. Your kindness is appreciated.

Henry Reed

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***“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” Psalm 46: 10-11***

## NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### POLICY GUIDE FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST ON EARTH. THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE TREATED WITH SUCH RESPECT AS IS DUE THE MISSION AND WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST. OUR CHURCH EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD AND TO ENJOY HIM FOREVER.

#### GUIDELINES

1. The church building is available without charge for the various groups and organizations affiliated with New Bedford Presbyterian Church. Dates for use of the church building and its facilities must be cleared for approved by the church office as far in advance as possible. Please call the church secretary during working hours.  
Church meetings always take priority to outside activities.
2. Those pre-approved outside groups which meet regularly in the church will renew their contracts in August of each year at which time satisfactory space, arrangements, compensations and custodial fees will be established.
3. No requests by an individual or group involved in commerce or business or in a non-charitable profit-making venture will be considered.
4. As we are not primarily in the rental business, therefore, the use of church facilities for receptions, showers, family celebrations or other social function for outside groups or individuals who are not active members of New Bedford Church or their immediate family does not meet our criteria for building usage. Non-church groups or individuals may only use the church facilities upon approval by the Session. The church secretary shall refer all requests to the Administration Committee who will make a recommendation to the Session.
5. All non church groups, organizations and individuals must if approved by Session, make a \$50.00 deposit with an application for use 6 weeks prior to usage. Members who seek to act as sponsor for a non-church group may ask session to waive either time or financial requirement for sufficient cause.
6. The Administration Committee will post and distribute to member and non-member applicants recommended donations to the church for use of various rooms and facilities.
7. Non members may not hold receptions in hall unless married in this church.
8. Any damage or loss of church equipment will require restitution by the individual requesting permission for individual or group functions. Damage costs are to be determined by the

Administration Committee.

9. Use of building is restricted to that portion of the building for which permission is obtained. Leaders of groups of organizations are responsible to see that no other portion of the building is entered. Adult supervision of youth and children is required at all times.
10. Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is forbidden on the church grounds.
11. The church musical instruments such as piano, organ, etc. may be used only with permission from the church office and/or church organists.
12. Costs and permission for usage will be based on WHO the honoree/celebrant will be and NOT on who is making the request for usage. Active members, parents of active members and children of active members may use the church facilities at the member costs listed below. If Session approves uses of a non member use, the non member costs shall apply.
13. Children under the age of 14 may not enter the kitchen for any reason.
14. No group or individual may use the dishwasher without specific permission and instruction from the church
15. The island sink shall be used for hand washing and food preparation only. All hand washing of dishes shall take place in the triple sink.
16. Church plates and cups shall not be used by groups or individuals using the church. All paper supplies shall be supplied by the group or individual using the church.

REQUIRED DONATIONS FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

The following donation guide is to be used in addition to the \$50.00 deposit (which is applied to the church use fee.)

	Members	Non-members
Double room/Kitchen	\$40.00	\$120.00
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen	\$50.00	\$200.00
Sanctuary	\$No cost	\$150.00

Adopted by Session: 1-26-12

Church office hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00A.M. - 2:00P.M.

## YOUTH NEWS

Youth group has resumed and we had a youth dinner with turkey and all the fixins' at Geniene's. About 13 kids came and we then watched a movie.

Our Seneca Hills retreat was this past weekend.

We had 21 kids and I believe, had an amazing weekend. Our speakers were Todd and Susan Morrison who spoke about the death of their 19 year old son and Annetta Dewberry who spoke about 'Why are we Christians'. On Saturday night, we had a visit from the World's Strongest Redneck, Steve McGranahan. He can bend and shape some pretty amazing things but, most importantly, he has a wonderful message about the love of Christ. The kids did paintball and had a great time. I would like to thank everyone who helps out with the retreat in any way but especially to Brad and Marty Marshall who cook for us every year!! We eat VERY well while we are away. I would also like to thank our youth worship team for leading us before our sessions. I feel that I also owe a thank you to the kids who came. What a great group of kids!!! You are all respectful, caring, fun, and very well-behaved. I thank you for making this a very enjoyable weekend!!



because we can get a group rate lowering prices even more. Do NOT bring checks to pay for skiing. You must have cash for this event. Food is available for a reasonable price or you may pack a lunch. We will meet at the church at 7:45 am and return around 6:00. We can do a fast food stop on the way home.

Casting Crowns is coming to the Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh on Sat., March 31<sup>st</sup>. This is also open to anyone in the church. Tickets are \$29 plus tax. If we get a group of 20, tickets will be \$24. Let Gisela Dieter or Geniene know if you are interested.

The Alive Festival is June 20-23rd. I would LOVE to take a large group to this. Again, this is a youth sponsored event but anyone who enjoys camping, great speakers, and praise and worship are welcome to join us. Fundraising will be a must for this trip. I will be having a meeting on Thurs, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm for anyone interested in attending. Some of the speakers this year are Reggie Dabbs, Mark Cahill, Kirk Cameron, and Louie Giglio. Some of the bands are Casting Crowns, Chris Tomlin, and Skillet. This is going to be an event that, young or old, you are not going to want to miss.

Upcoming events:



Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will again be going skiing at Mount Pleasant in Edinboro, PA. This is a youth event but everyone is invited. Lift tickets are \$23 for adults and \$20 for students.

College kids are included in the student rate but you must have a student ID. Equipment rental is \$17 for adults and \$12 for students. Snow tubing is also available for \$8 for the first hour, \$12 for 2 hours, and \$15 for three hours. Let me know if you are even thinking about coming

Seneca Hills summer campers!!! If you are planning on going to summer camp this year, remember to register before April 1<sup>st</sup> to receive \$10 off your full week of summer camp. Remember, the church scholarships a portion of your camping fee!!!





