



Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

As we move into the new year I read an article written by rev. Frank Lawrence. Allow me to share this article it is entitled "Moving on From Christmas."

*Someone has observed that it is fortunate for us that before we enter a new year we always first pass through Bethlehem.*

*We need to hear the Christmas angels remind us that God sent the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Savior from the power and penalty of sin. We need to see the star and realize that God is in control of unknown men from an unknown region, and if He could guide the Magi to Jesus he will guide us into an unknown future. In other words we need to go through Christmas so that in January we might arise and shout not, "Look what the world is coming to," but rather "Look what has come to the world."*

*But did you ever notice how quickly the scriptures pass from Bethlehem? Luke uses 120 verses to cover the annunciation of John and birth of our Lord, a fifteen month period. Then, in one verse we are whisked ahead twelve years, "and the Child grew." Then follows the visit to Jerusalem at the age of twelve, and one more verse, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature," followed by his baptism. Twelve years gathered into one sentence.*

*Perhaps there is more reason for us in this new year to hasten on from Christmas than ever before. In urging The Supreme Court to allow the nativity scene in his state, the Attorney General of Rhode Island said, "The Christmas observance is a secular folk festival." (The Supreme Court still ruled against the nativity scene.)*

*How many of the millions of Americans observing Christmas attach the Scriptural, Christian meaning to the holiday? We need to leave behind the worldly hoopla, the commercialization and the plastic holly.*

*This is what Jesus did—went on from Christmas. Angel choirs fell silent, the Magi faded into the desert, prophetic voices were silenced. But the Scripture says, "Jesus increased in wisdom and became strong and the favor of the Lord was upon Him."*

*As a folk festival Christmas is finished when the presents are unwrapped, the special dinner is over and families scatter across the nation. We need to go on to the real Christmas: the purpose of His coming.*

*We must move from the baby in the manger whom God sent, to the teacher whom the common people heard gladly, to the Savior on the cross who came to give His life a ransom for many. To the empty tomb where He stands and says, "I have the keys of death." It is a giant step from observing a folk festival to committing ourselves to Jesus Christ and to become a people who are the salt to a decaying world and light to a dark world.*

As we continue in the new year let us walk closely with our Lord. The elders have stated the desire to make this year be a "Year of Commitment." Let us commit ourselves to our Lord, to our church, to our families, and to our communities as we serve the living, present Jesus.

In Christ,  
Doug

# SESSION NEWS

On Sunday, January 9, 2011 the following people were ordained/installed as elders or deacons.

**Elders**

Ted Chrobak  
Nancy Cummings  
Dan Dieter  
Gary Greene

**Deacons**

Carl Black  
Lisa Craig  
Mary Hartzell  
Nancy Rudzik



The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> following worship service. This meeting has been called to review all reports of boards and committees and for any new business that may come before the congregation.

Note: All Board or Committee Chairmen need to be working on their reports to be included in the Annual Report. We would appreciate them as soon as possible but have set January 19<sup>th</sup> as the deadline.

Thank You to the Worship Committee for being the first one to turn in their report.

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On Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> all members of Session and Deacons were invited to a time of training, sharing , and setting goals for the new year.



**Welcome  
Our New  
Members**

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We are happy to welcome James Emery Sr.; James, Terri and Jake Emery as members of our church. They were former members of Second Presbyterian Church in New Castle.

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# DEACON NEWS

The Board of Deacons had a very busy couple months.

- They helped out at Thanksgiving with vouchers for food for those in our church family (and community) that needed some extra help)
- They packed and delivered boxes of food to many in our congregation and community at Christmas time. They also delivered fruit baskets to the shut-ins and elderly folks for Christmas.
- Set up the Poinsettia Tree and ordered the flowers for Christmas



We thank the Deacons for all their work in helping to make Thanksgiving and Christmas a little brighter for those in need. Also for ordering and taking care of the flowers. THANKS!!!!  
The Deacons visit our shut-ins and hospital people; send cards and bulletins to those who are ill, hospitalized or in nursing homes, serve funeral dinners, send in meals when folks come home from the hospital and help in many other ways ministering to the congregation.

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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.

- Verda Hepler-----Home
- Nancy Templeton-----Overlook
- Gertie Bretz-----Home
- Shirley Cramer-----Home
- Chuck Ruby-----Avalon Nursing Home
- Jo Ruby-----Home
- George& Marie Snyder-----Home
- Bob & Jean Rishel----Shenango Home (Bob 315) Jean (240)
- Jeanine Keesey-----Home
- Denny Eppinger-----Hospitalized in Denver
- Jessica Halt-----Recuperating from a fall
- Bernice Boyer-----Receiving Treatments
- Steve Kline-----Jameson Care Center
- Rod Smith-----Receiving Treatments

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*May God be gracious to us, and bless us and make his face shine upon us; may your ways be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67: 1-2*

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY CLASS

It seems like a long time ago when we started but the wonderful benefits of attending the Financial Peace University classes are ongoing. Dan and Gisela Dieter agreed to facilitate the 13 week video course of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, and August 22<sup>nd</sup> the class began with 28 people; two classes were held each Sunday. There were 22 from our church and 6 from the surrounding area who each week showed up to share, learn and grow in the biblical knowledge and practical ways to deal with money, debt, saving, spending and investing in our lives. We came from all walks of life, nurses, pastors, teachers, secretaries, unemployed, electricians, social workers, retired, and more and came from all different places in our knowledge of financial matters. In the 13 weeks we shared together, we made new friends and grew in our existing friendships, encouraged one another and we acknowledged that all we have and all that we do in our financial matters is to the Glory of God. So on November 21<sup>st</sup> the two classes combined (still 28 of us) to join in our final class, share in a meal, all very thankful for the experience.

This class changed people's lives.....forever!  
Thank you Dan and Gisela for giving so freely and generously of your time - It was greatly appreciated and it make a difference.

Your "1<sup>st</sup>" Financial Peace University Class.  
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### KITCHEN REMODELING PROJECT



### **KITCHEN REMODELING PROJECT**

Saturday morning, January 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 8:00A.M.  
we will begin the Kitchen Remodeling. We invite anyone who is willing to help with the project to come and help out with this project.

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HELP!! If you would like to serve on ANY Committee of the church please see Pastor Doug.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

Jackki Gardner-----	01
Scott Brubaker-----	04
Philip Book-----	05
Lois Adams-----	05
Ashley Fox-----	05
Shirley Janoski-----	05
Joel (Swiger) Phillips-----	05
Nancy Bretz-----	06
Doug Wallace-----	08
Loren Allison-----	08
Brenda Miller-----	09
Diane McConnell-----	12
Linda Feil-----	12
Brody Emery-----	12
Joan Hoffman-----	13
Allen Jones-----	14
Rosie Moore-----	19
Willie Moore-----	19
Amanda Miller-----	20
Mikayln Duffy-----	20
Lori Smith-----	24
Michael Duffy-----	26
Julie Whiting-----	26
Mackenzie McCarthy-----	26
Morgan Whiting-----	27
Joyce Goist-----	27
Taylor Allison-----	28
Toni Reynolds-----	31

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## BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

Bea Brindza-----	02
Nancy Phillis-----	02
Dawn Harris-----	03
Buzz Cunningham-----	03
Bobby Morehead-----	03
Paul Cummings-----	03
Harry Cornman-----	04
Austin Whiting-----	04
Pam Liddell-----	05
Martha Boyer-----	07
Gerald Boyer-----	08
Leonard Halt-----	08
Laura Harshbarger-----	08
Nancy Rudzik-----	10
Megan Allison-----	13
Bill Ridenour-----	14
Shirley Snyder-----	15
Sis Hartzell-----	15
Jeanine Keesey-----	15
Nathan Riachy-----	17
Becky Shugars-----	19
Donald Pence-----	26
Don Craig-----	27
Linda Brubaker-----	28
Donald Kusky-----	28

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and tear down and those who helped in any way to make Breakfast in Bethlehem such a success.

Brad & Marty Marshall

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Thank you to Palumbo's Meat Market for the hams that the Deacons distributed at Christmas time.

Thank you to Scott and Gail Phillips for the roasts they also donated .

Thank You to the worship committee for all their work decorating and de-decorating for Christmas and for organizing the Christmas dinner. It was wonderful.

Thank You to our many neighbors, church family and friends for the cards, gifts, food sent in, visits and most of all for the prayers for me and my family. Your thoughtfulness and kindness has touched our hearts and will always be remembered.

Jeanine Keesey and family

## SYMPATHY

The congregation extends sincere sympathy to Robin & Pam Mortimer at the death of his mother, Nellie recently.

We also rejoice with them in the good hope that is every Christians through our risen Lord Jesus Christ from whom we have received the promise of eternal life.

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## CIRCLE MEETINGS

Deborah Circle met on Monday, Jan 10, at the church.

Rebekah Circle will be going out to dinner at Ruby Tuesdays on Monday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00P.M.

Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at the church. 7:30P.M.

We are asking the ladies of our church to consider joining a Circle. We have a day-time and two evening circles. We hope you will consider becoming a part of one of the circles. We have great Bible Studies and it is also a time of good fellowship.

Helen Ruby asks that you be working on projects for this years bazaar (November 5<sup>th</sup>) Winter is the perfect time to think "bazaar" and keep your fingers nimble working on these items for the



bazaar.

## WILD GAME NIGHT

Wild Game Night was to be this coming Saturday but has been POSTPONED until February 12<sup>th</sup>. at 6:00P.M.



Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. Bring a dish to share made of wild game (or not).



## LIGHT A CANDLE FOR LIFE

The 25<sup>th</sup> Light a Candle for Life will be held at Kennedy Square in New Castle on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30P.M. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information.

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The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a Turkey Dinner on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00P.M. here at the church followed by a family movie at 7:15 P.M. This is for the whole family and everyone is invited.



Please make a reservation. There is no cost but the committee need to know how many to prepare for.

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The Evangelism Committee is also serving coffee and donuts in the vestibule on the last Sunday of every month.

Come enjoy the food and good fellowship.

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Join us for the Monday Fun Group which will begin meeting on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2011 from 1:00P.M. to 4:00P.M. at the New Bedford Presbyterian Church. The Group is for anyone 50 and older and open to anyone in the community. A variety of games/activities are planned.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Austin and Julie Whiting on the birth of a son Marshall Wilson Whiting born Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. The little boy weighed 8 pounds and 5 ounces. We welcome Marshall into our church family.



Welcome Marshall Whiting

## YOUTH NEWS

### Jr./Sr. High

As always, December was a very busy and eventful month. On Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, we began with Taco Bell and then went to King's Chapel Church for the drive-thru nativity. We enjoyed the live nativity and the story of our Savior's birth. Sat., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> was Breakfast In Bethlehem. I thank all of the youth group who volunteered to help and to Lori Jones and our puppeteers for pulling together on very short notice. On Sat., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, I had the Jr. High kids in for a Christmas dinner. Unfortunately, we didn't have many kids. However, Sam sees it a different way. He had turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing for his lunch for several days! The girls that did show up had a great time and I do thank the ones who came. On Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, we had our youth worship service and our annual Christmas pageant. First, I would like to thank Julie Whiting for leading the pageant. She did an amazing job getting everything ready, and even though she spent Sat. night in the hospital, she had everything all prepared and was even discharged in time to see all the kids in the pageant. If you missed the program, it was truly AMAZING. There was a wonderful message and the kids did a great job. I was so proud of each one of you. I also thank all the parents who helped, and our youth for leading us in music. A special thank you also to Donna Fox for playing the music for the pageant. After the program, only 2 families went Christmas caroling, but I must say it was a wonderful time. Some of the shut-in's we sang to were truly touched. I thank the children who came to sing and for your excitement to bring a light to someone in need this Christmas season. I think that each of these kids learned that there's more to Christmas than just receiving gifts. On Thurs, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, I had the sr. high and college students in for Christmas dinner. We had so many kids that we barely had enough food. While I was concerned about running out of food, Sam was concerned that he had no lunch to take to work!!!! Again, we had a wonderful evening and I'm thankful for all the kids in our church who are so willing to be a part of this group. I thank the kids who helped put out the luminarias on Christmas Eve and a special thank-you to Pastor Doug for picking them all up. (Sorry about that.)



LUMINARIA

On Mon, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 youth and myself headed to our annual Joshua Revolution Conference in Niagara Falls. We had 4 spiritual-filled days listening to wonderful

music and amazing speakers. I thank our congregation for their prayers and for the financial support you give to our youth for this trip. You will have the opportunity to hear some of the speakers when our videos arrive!

Upcoming schedule.... Next Sunday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> will be our next youth service at 6pm. Don't forget about "Dinner and a Movie Night" here at the church on Sat. Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. On Sunday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, our youth will be meeting at the church at 4:30 and going to the Y-Zone for Winter Blast which is sponsored by Lawrence County Youth Ministries. They will have a volleyball and dodge ball tournament, pizza and door prizes. And the entire night is free!!! The speaker for the evening is Angel DeLaCruz and he will be sharing his powerful story of his rescue from drugs, alcohol, and life on the street. You definitely will not want to miss this!!!!!!



I have tentatively scheduled our ski trip for Sat., Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. We are again going to Mount Pleasant Ski Resort in Edinboro where they have skiing and snow tubing. We will leave the church around 8am and return around 7pm. The cost will be approximately \$40 for students and that includes your lift ticket and ski rental. More details will be coming soon.



Due to a conflict with Wilmington's Musical the winter retreat at Seneca Hills has been rescheduled for March 25-27th. We, hopefully, will not have snow but they do have the paintball course up and running so it will still be a blast!!! Mark your calendars and, yes, I am looking at dates for a lock-in.

### KidsZone

On Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, the kids made Christmas cards and delivered them to the residents at the Overlook. We also sang Christmas carols and visited. On Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, we went caroling to our shut-ins in the community. KidsZone again resumed on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Our annual "bowling outing" is tentatively scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark the date. Time and location to be announced.



We continue to need Sunday School teachers for a 4-5 year old class and a kindergarten class. We just don't have anywhere for our kids younger than 1<sup>st</sup> grade to go other than the nursery. Please pray about this need in our church.

