

REDEEMING TIMES-----JULY/AUGUST-2006

Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

Let me begin this Newsletter by welcoming Matt Kovalcik to our church. The session voted to hire Matt as our Director of Youth Ministry. There is more information about Matt under our Session Highlights. Also under the Highlights are other critical actions that were taken by our Session at the June meeting.

I want to use this letter to highlight a fundamental truth of New Bedford Church. The need to highlight this truth became very evident to me at General Assembly. The truth is this... we are totally dependant upon the written Word of God... the Bible.

The Westminster Confession of Faith is the guiding Confession of our church. It is the authoritative interpretation of Scripture for Reformed (Presbyterian) churches. Allow me to quote the section on scripture.

The Authority of Holy Scripture... dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God, the author thereof, and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.....

All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.

The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any scripture, it may be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.

We need to be grounded in God's written Word. This is true as individuals and this is true as a church. I believe it is important to understand that the Bible is God's guideline for our lives. It is not just a "theological discourse." It does not just deal with heaven. It does not just deal with faith issues. It is God's comprehensive guide for living.

For example, do you know that one of the primary topics of Jesus' parables was money? Again and again Jesus deals with the topic in parables. (The hidden treasure, the good Samaritan, The lost coin, the pearl of great price and many, many others). Do you want to know what the role of money should be in your life? Look to the Word of God. Do you want to know how to parent? Look to the Word of God. Do you want a marriage that will be joy-filled? Look to the Word of God. Do you want to know how to solve a conflict with another person? Look to the Word of God. Do you want to know how to solve anger.... or depression... or bitterness... look to the Word of God.

The point is this... we must not only say we believe the Bible is the Word of God, we must allow God's Word to guide our actions...and even our thoughts. Romans 12 tells us that we are "transformed by the renewing of our minds." We must allow the Bible to be constant in the forefront of our minds. Again and again we must ask ourselves... "What does God's word say to me in this situation?"

We as a church seek to be grounded in the Word of God. The Elders are determined to make decisions based on His Word. We are far, far from perfect. Our human wills and human backgrounds often get in the way. Please pray that we will surrender our wills to God's Word.

In Christ,
Doug

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Church Members,

As Stated Clerk of Session, I have been asked to write a letter explaining an action we took at our last session meeting. We decided to withhold the payment of our General Assembly Per Capita Payment for the remainder of this year and in the future. Of the \$22.71 we pay per member this year, \$5.57 is the General Assembly portion that will not be paid. (For the remainder of this year this amounts to approximately \$900.00).

This year this money will be used to support and discover more about the evangelical Renewal Groups within our denomination.

Allow me to share some of the reasons for this decision.

First, it is important to know that the denomination has clearly stated that Per Capita payments are voluntary contributions. It is not a tax...it is a contribution. We, as Elders, feel we need to be wise stewards of all gifts given to the church. Approximately eighteen other churches in our Presbytery have made this decision over the past few years.

Second, Per Capita goes to pay administrative costs, but it also is used to make payments to the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, the Washington Office, and other organizations that we feel we would not want to support. Attempts to change the policy of the denomination to have Per Capita pay only administrative costs have failed.

Third, the Elders strongly felt that we wanted to voice our disagreement with the path the denomination is going. The decisions of the last General Assembly, especially the receiving of the Trinity Paper and the acceptance of the report allowing local churches and presbyteries to ordain men and women without being in obedience to the Book of Order's requirement to be single or in a married relationship, have caused us great concern.

It is our prayer for renewal and revival in our denomination and in our church. We believe God is faithful and we will place our trust in Him. If you have any questions please talk to any of the Elders.

Faithfully Yours,
Brenda Hostetler
Clerk of Session

HIRING OF MATT KOVALCIK At our June meeting, after a unanimous recommendation from the Christian Ed Committee and after an extensive interview by the session, Matt Kovalcik was hired as our Director of Youth Ministry. Matt is coming to us from Zelienople where he is serving as a part time Youth Minister. Matt grew up in the Butler area and is a graduate of Knoch High School. He attended North Main Street Church of God in Butler. Matt is a graduate of Lancaster Bible College with a degree in Youth Ministry. Matt has also been very active in Christian camping. Matt wrote this in his resume, "I am a very optimistic, outgoing, people-oriented person with a strong sense of humor. As a senior in High School, I was lead to the Lord by another student who was dedicated to boldly serving the Lord. Ever since then my life's passion has been to teach youth how to win their friends to Christ. I am an energetic individual who is passionate about youth"

Matt is engaged to a lovely young woman named Val. They are scheduled to get married next May. Matt is looking for a place to live in the area...if you know of a place to rent please contact the church. Matt is scheduled to begin August 1st.

WEB PAGE APPROVAL

We approved a web page for the church. Our address is newbedfordchurch.org. Thank you to Nathan Book for designing and researching the information needed to make this decision. Please go to the Web page. It contains a great amount of information about the church.

Do you need a VBS registration form... it is downloadable from the Web Page

Do you want to read the Redeeming Times the day it is printed? Go to the Web page.

Do you want information about Bible studies and worship... it's at www.newbedfordchurch.org

HEIFER PROJECT ARK project approved. Our church has decided to provide an entire "ark" of animals to the people in need in the world. This will involve raising \$4000.00 to \$5000.00 over the next few years to help allow starving people to have a means of providing food for their families. More details will be announced in the future. It will be the mission project for VBS.

BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY

Mary Beckman-----5	Matt Miller-----12	Shannon Marshall-----25
Tim Pogozelec-----5	Cindy Minich-----13	Diane Bell-----26
Tracy Duffy-----6	Chuck Orth-----15	Natalie Carr-----26
Jackson Riachy-----8	Gail Phillips-----17	Bryan Saulpaugh-----26
Amber Morse-----8	Marilyn Ringbloom--17	Art Spence-----27
Scott Phillips-----9	Jessica Halt-----19	Jacob Moore-----27
Ed Beckman-----9	Isaac Duffy-----19	Samuel Moore-----27
Jane Eppinger-----11	Stacy DePinto-----20	Nicholas Moore-----27
Todd Manuel-----11	Aryn Boyer-----21	Rick Pence-----27
Grace Ripley-----11	Alyson Boyer-----21	Donna Ridenour-----31
Coleen Snyder-----11	Hilary Robison-----24	

Wally Huber Birthday is July 20-----Ginny Huber July 6

BIRTHDAYS FOR AUGUST

Jeannie Carr-----3	Melvin Kauffman-----13	Meadow Whiting-----21
Doug Carr-----3	Tammy Anderson-----13	Marge Divens-----22
Eric Anderson-----4	Ciarra McAllen-----14	Dot Jones-----22
Pete Carlisle-----4	Carla Sokolowski-----14	Katherine Bell-----22
Mary Stoughton----5	Mary Miller-----14	Justin Bell-----22
Ted Chrobak-----5	Bob Bretz Sr.-----15	Dallas Travers-----22
Jessica Bochy-----7	Sandy Courson-----16	George Fynes-----24
Erma Gorley-----7	Mary Hartzell-----16	Mitchell Whiting-----25
Emma Duffy-----8	Shirley Goist-----16	Taylor Bochy-----25
John Reynolds-----11	Alexis Manuel-----18	Kelly Fox-----26
Laura Dieter-----12	Renee Burrows-----19	Jake Smith-----27
Lillian Fulkman-----19	Helen Ruby-----29	
Ginny Banfield-----29		

THANK YOU

Thank You to our friends from the congregation and also to the Deacons for attending my graduation party and to the Deacons for the Bible presented to me for my graduation. To all of you thank you for your support. Jon Reynolds

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Thank you to Nathan Book for bringing the fire truck hose to clean the picnic pavilion and all the picnic tables. Also thanks for helping clean all the throw rugs in the church. Thanks Nathan!!!!

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Thank you to Scott Kerr for all the work the has done to get things back in order after the sewers were installed.
Congregation

Thank you all for your generous and loving support for our son Alec. We thank you for the prayers and monetary donation that made it possible for us to take Alec to Boston for treatment. Alec is doing wonderful. The surgery was successful.

Bless you all! Shannon and Joe

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at worship service on August 6th.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Dr. Ioannis Avramis and his wife Dr. Joslin Gilly who graduated June 10 from U C Davis School of Medicine, Davis, CA. Ioannis is the grandson of Art and Doris Spence. They attended the graduation ceremony.

The TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY will begin on Tuesday, July 18 (the week after Vacation Bible School). This year the meeting time will be 12:00 NOON TO 1:30p.m. (If you like, bring a sandwich and we'll have lunch together while we study. We will be looking at Revelation, discovering what the Bible says about the end times.

Everyone is invited to attend this Bible Study. Don't think that just because you attend a Bible Study that you might have to read or pray aloud. You just do what is comfortable for you. We'll be so glad to have you with us.

Harvesters News

The trip to Mill Creek Park has been changed to a trip to Boardman Park. Mill Creek Park is not operational on Mondays. That trip will be at a later date. However we will be meeting here at the church on Monday, July 10th at 11:00A.M. to go to Boardman Park for a picnic. We have a shelter reserved and there will be very little walking involved. Food will be supplied and a program is planned.

We need you to make reservations with Shirley Goist or Renee Burrows or Lillian. This is open to all those 55 and older. A small fee will be charged. Come rain or shine—you will be covered in the shelter.

OOPS: Sorry Denise that we missed your birthday last month. Especially when we had your twin brothers birthday in. ☐

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Dennis and Jaclyn Hanna on the birth of a baby girl Alexandra Mae on June 5th. Grandparents are Darla and Brian Hanna and Great

Grandparents are James F. And Martha Boyer.

On July 23 while Pastor Doug is away Rev. John McClure will be the guest minister.

On June 29th PRAISE will be leading the entire worship service

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

- Justin Dillon-----Home
- Donna Ealy-----Home
- Katharine Bell-----Cedar Manor
- Ed Beckman-----Receiving Treatments
- Betty Wetherstein----- St John XXIII Nursing Home
- Shirley Ruby-----Home
- Dee Haines-----Home at Harvey Jr.
- Verda Hepler-----Home
- Grace Baughman-----At home with her daughter
- Jeanine Keesey-----Taking treatments
- Wally Huber-----Waiting for liver transplant
- Jane Walker-----Living in Florida (Has cracked vertebrae & pinched nerve)
- Harry Ripley-----Recuperating at home
- Jim Boyer-----Waiting for kidney transplant
- Ray Janoski-----Home

DID YOU KNOW

...Larry and Denise Rowan, Wayne and Marcus were here visiting from Montana

...George Fynes has a new pet a chihuahua

...We had a church mouse and Nathan captured it while Toni screeched and ran

...Pat M. LOVES yard sales.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

It's been seven years since our last church directory. We all know how many changes take place in that amount of time. Olan Mills will be here taking pictures on October 13 and 14. Please mark these dates on your calendar to have your picture taken to be included in the new directory.

HELP NEEDED

The Administration is asking anyone who is willing to come to the church on Monday evening, July 17th to spread top soil and seed the places where the sewer pipes were laid. Also we will be covering the new seed with straw so please come and give us a few hours of your time.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Rachel Jones and Dan Bobic who shared their vows of marriage here at the church on June 10th. We wish Rachel and Dan a long happy life together. They are presently living in Wisconsin where Dan is stationed in the Navy.

BALLYNOONAUGH

Keep to the left. Look to the right. The place is not on the map, although it may have been at one time. The famine of 1845 had changed the human landscape of Ireland so much that the western regions were largely depopulated. And this was in the west, in County Galway, on the road between Clonbur and Clogbrack, in the Gaeltacht where Gaelic is the dominant tongue. Mr. Burke (Gearoid) said the key would be in the door of the cottage, the 300 year old stone cottage he had restored and updated, stones, and thatch, electricity and running water, a mountain for a front yard, a mountain of sheep and white hawthorn in full bloom, between two huge natural lakes, Lough Mask to the north, which drained by underground rivers into Lough Corrib to the south. The town of Cong was nearby, an island surrounded by the upwelling of these unseen rivers, where the movie “The Quiet Man”, had been filmed.

Lots of sheep and the occasional cow. Thin rocky soils, fences of piled up stone, the stone bones of ancient abandoned houses and fallen abbeys, abandoned castles and fallen churches, abandoned fields and stone fences, kept and unkept. We were on the edge of Connemara region, where mountains and lakes compete with rhododendrons for your attention. Peak bloom, a rare sunny week without rain. Gearoid’s wife was in the cottage when we arrived, sweeping up. She had brought us some fresh eggs, and brown soda bread, ham-like rashers, sausage-like bangers, milk and cream, and two rounds of pudding. The white pudding was finely ground pork sausage extended with oats and cracked barely all in a casing to be sliced and fried for breakfast. The black was like the white, except for the addition of dried pigs’ blood. We four tried it all, with my son-in-law- and self learning to like the puddings. We had made the drive from the airport without any fatalities. Dooley’s Auto Rental put us into a never-driven Ford Focus as contracted. The 14 gallon tank filled for \$86.00. The roads had no berms. (The road in front of the church in New Bedford would have qualified as a national road).

For most of a week we would stay in Ballynoonaugh, with day trips to the holy mountain of Croag Patrick, to Kylemore Abbey, and the ancient church at Ballintubber, around Lough Mask, and to old Galway Town. In Tournakeady we stopped at the post-office, which was also a service station, general store, and pub. No smoking in the pubs, and fine food: lamb, fish and chips, smoked wild salmon, roast chicken with ham, and local seafood: monkfish, pollock, plaice, Atlantic crab, oysters, squid, mussels in a buttered beer and cheese sauce. On Sunday, while out, we stopped in a village for lunch at the pub. The place was filled with church ladies in their Sunday dresses, doing pints of Guinness. The proprietor told us it was Sunday. He would not serve food, only drink. I guess people need their rules. Gearoid had two darling little girls, Sarah and Lisa, who allowed my wife to feed the orphaned lamb they had named Fluffy. Carol fed it a bottle while the girls picked wild flowers for it to eat.

One day we drove to the coast and took the ferry to Inismor, the largest of the Aran islands where farmers had to make their own soil. Each year they would go to the shore at low tide with horses and rakes, and harvest wagon loads of seaweed to be mixed at their fields with sand for soil. The rock fences on Inismor are often taller than a man. There are church ruins over 1400 years old, and a stone fort build before Solomon’s time.

We left our cottage a day early. Heading south towards Cork, we met our first American-style super highways: “dual carriageways”. Near intersections farmers sold berries, eggs, and new red potatoes on the berm, while one man sat on a chair under an umbrella with three Jack Russell pups on a leash: 300 euros per pup. Major intersections poured into traffic circles called “roundabouts”. I let my son-in-law drive these. Going through one was an opportunity for family prayer. In the south the land became fertile, and there soon were not enough rocks for a proper fence. Farms were mechanized. Plenty of cattle and the odd sheep. We went to a few tourist sites, and found a bed and breakfast for our last night. The next morning we stopped at a restored castle near the airport, walked through a restored farm village. Tourist stuff. Already I missed the sheep on the mountains in County Galway, the sheep blocking the roads between Clogbrack and Maam, the sheep on the road between Finney and Tourmakeady, but we had to go back home. Otherwise, how could we ever come back?

The Ohio Scribe