



Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

My wife and I have just returned from a trip to Spain. The trip was a wonderful trip but, from a Christian perspective, there is also sadness. The churches have become museums. These beautiful cathedrals now have little to no Christian activity within them. What happened? Could the same thing happen in the United States? Allow me to share what I believe is a central cause of this decline. I believe there is a confusion between the religion of Christianity and a relationship with Jesus Christ. To be blunt, the first leads to a false security, a declining church, and eventual eternal separation from God. The latter leads to “abundant joy,” renewal and revival, and eternity with our Lord.

Karl Barth, one of the foremost theologians of the 20th century wrote, “The Church is the greatest religious organization ever created by man.” This, for Barth, was the ultimate insult. An organization (even if it is religious) created by man can not bring a person to salvation. A human organization brings habit, guilt, tediousness and endless meetings. It does not bring abundant, rich lives. Religion is going to church (either weekly or twice per year), being part of an organization, undergoing ceremonies (baptism, confirmation, marriage, funerals) and believing in God. The great danger of religion is it looks good. It provides a false sense of security.

A relationship with Jesus Christ can best be illustrated by a marriage illustration (it is the illustration most used in the Bible). A person in relationship with Christ made a definitive decision to unite with Christ, as a man and women do in marriage. No one is born married. No one is automatically married by being a guest at a wedding. No one is married by “believing in marriage.” No one is married by doing the actions of married people. A decision and commitment must be made. The decision to marry varies with different individuals. For some it is a long process of courting for many years. For others it is a swift “love at first sight” process. Both end in a decision and a commitment. The same is true for Christians. For some it is a long process for others it is a short time to surrender and commitment.

How can you tell the difference between a ‘religious’ person and a relational Christian? Truthfully at times it is very difficult but here are a few of my observations. First, a “religious” person when asked if they are a Christian will say something like; “Oh yes, I’m a member of such and such church.” A relational Christian will say something like this; “Oh yes, at such and such time I accepted Christ as my Lord and try to walk with Him every day.” Second, a “religious” person will separate their faith from the “real world.” They will come to church (at some frequency) and try to “live by the 10 commandments,” but then will exclude their faith from areas of their life where “being Christian is just not practical.” A relationship with Christ is a full time, any place relationship (you can’t be married in select situations). Thirdly, a “religious” person never discovers the joy of faith. Church is a burden and an obligation. Church is “important for the children,” and the promised “abundant life” is never discovered. For a relational Christian worship is often a joy (not always) prayer is often intimate (not always) and life is full and joyful (at times).

My prayer for all of you is that you have discovered the joy of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have any doubts.... simply sit down for a time of prayer and offer you life anew to the Lord. Once again make a full commitment to our Savior. If this is done by many, many people in our land a great renewal and revival will sweep across our country. The European danger will pass and Christ will be alive in our land.

Yours in Christ
Doug

SESSION NOTES

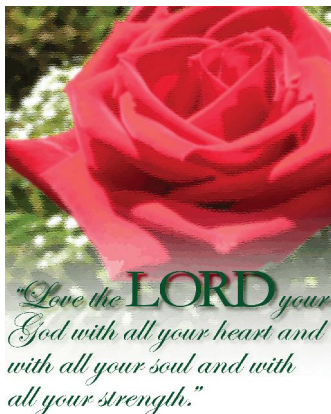
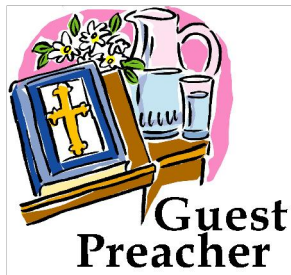


This coming Sunday Matt Stacey and Lily Ayars will be with us to tell of their work in Haiti. They will have pictures and tell of

work at the Emmaus Biblical Seminary and of life following the earthquake. Following the service, there will be a luncheon featuring Tim and Debbie's pulled pork sandwiches, lots of salads and dessert. We hope you will make every effort to be here for the presentation, good food and fellowship.

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The next Session Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, July 8, at 7:00P.M.

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On Sunday, August 1, we will have a guest pastor. Steve Huber, son of Wally and Ginny Huber will preach that Sunday. Steve grew up in this church and now pastors a church in Philadelphia. We are looking forward to him being here.



Deuteronomy 6:5, NIV

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

Verda Hepler-----Home
Nancy Templeton-----Overlook
Mrs. Bernice Chrobak-----Edison Manor
Gertie Bretz-----Home
Shirley Cramer-----Home
Chuck Ruby-----Avalon Nursing Home
Jo Ruby-----Home
Bill Miller-----Home
George Snyder-----Home
Judy Beck-----Home
Tom & June Gates-----Home
Marge Divens-----Jameson Care Center
John Book-----V.A. Hospital, Cleveland
Bobby Morehead-----Recuperating at home
Jim Boyer-----North Side, Youngstown
Kim Runyan-----Recuperating at home

DID YOU KNOW

- Sandy Courson won a trophy in a polka contest
- Jane Eppinger can climb a ladder,, walk on the porch roof, tear a hole in the screen and get in her house when she locks herself out!!!!
Jane is a senior citizen!!!???
- Julie Whiting is wearing a cast on her arm all because of a dog
- Ask Patty Wade about getting second opinions when you keep having pain
- Erin Mentzer Teachy played the role of Peppermint Patty in a theater production of Snoopy in Kentucky where they live.
- Jack and Jeanine Keeseey returned home after an Alaskan Cruise and had a great time
- Doug and Kim Runyan spent their Anniversary/vacation in Spain.

THANK YOU

Thank You to everyone who remembered me with cards, calls, visits and prayers following my accident. It was nice to know that so many people were thinking of me.

Erick Boyer

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We thank Pizza Joes for the large discount they gave us for the pizza for Daily Vacation Bible School.

.....
Dear New Bedford Church Family

Thank You for all the prayers, visits, and cards following my knee surgery. My recovery is going well and I appreciate your thinking of me in so many ways.

Ted Chrobak



.....
Thank You to the Women's Association for having the furniture and carpet cleaned in the parlor.

.....
Thank You to Harry Cornman for fixing the chair and coat tree in the parlor. We surely appreciate it. Good Job Harry!

The Pulaski Township Historical Society will meet on July 14, at 7:30P.M. to discuss the by-laws. The meeting will be held at the Pulaski Township Building on Route #208.

Everyone is welcome.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with VBS this year. There was no such thing as a "big help" or "small help. It took each one of you to make this an amazing year. Thank you for volunteering your time by teaching our children and honoring God. A special thank you to Gisela Dieter, Dawn Harris and Shirley Janoski for all the hours you each had into Bible School this year. I praise God for the talents He has given you.

(Geniene)

SYMPATHY

Our congregation extends sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Harvey Haines who entered his eternal rest this past week.

Harvey was a faithful member of this church when they lived in New Bedford. The past few years he has lived with his son Harvey Jr. He has been in ill health for some time .



WOMEN'S NEWS

Beth Moore Bible Study-----

John, the Beloved Disciple began this past Monday evening. If you did not pick up your book, please do so and the next meeting will be July 12th at 6:30P.M.

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LADIES Our new sister church is Westfield Presbyterian Church. On July 20th they will be hosting a garden party presented by Dr. Bob Bardeen. The theme is:

"Color and Contrast: Nine months of Flowering Friends".

It will begin at noon and there is no need to make reservations but all ladies are invited to attend. Wear a hat (optional) and join the fellowship and fun.

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The Lydia Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, July 20th at 11:30 to go to lunch at 2 Tomato in New Castle.

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Ladies (and men) we hope you have been working on items for the Bazaar. It will be held the 6th of November. Craft items , jellies and jams, Christmas items and plants are always needed.

SINCE WE ARE DOING ONLY ONE NEWSLETTER FOR JULY AND AUGUST WE ARE PRINTING BOTH MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- Carrie Jones-----1
- Brandon Harris-----4
- Ethan Harris-----4
- Mary Beckman-----5
- Tim Pogozelec-----5
- Tracy Duffy-----6
- Nathan Book-----7
- Amber Morse-----8
- Jackson Riachy-----8
- Scott Phillips-----9
- Jane Eppinger-----11
- Grace Ripley-----11
- Matt Miller-----12
- Chuck Orth -----15
- Gail Phillips-----17
- Barb Carr-----18
- Sharon Book-----18
- Maverick Whiting-----18
- Jessica Halt-----19
- Isaac Duffy-----19
- Aryn Boyer-----21
- Samantha Shugars-----21
- Alyson Boyer-----21
- Larry Twigg-----21
- Janet Twigg -----22
- Al Belgie-----24
- Margie Matthews-----24*
- Diane Bell-----26
- Natalie Carr-----26
- Richard Pence-----27
- Jacob Moore-----27
- Samuel Moore-----27
- Nicholas Moore-----27
- Art Spence-----27
- Billy Ray Moore-----27
- Sheala McCarthy-----29
- Dona Ridenour-----31



JULY
Birthdays

*Hope you got cards for both June and July Margie.

AUGUST

- Eric Anderson-----4
- Pete Carlisle-----4
- Mary Stoughton-----5
- Erma Gorley-----7
- Emma Duffy-----8
- Gisela Dieter-----10
- Jon Reynolds-----11
- Melvin Kauffman-----13
- Tammy Anderson-----13
- Hank Glogowski-----14
- Ciarra McAllen-----14
- Mary Miller-----14
- Bob Bretz-----15
- Ursula Pence-----15
- Sandy Courson-----16
- Shirley Goist-----16
- Mary Hartzell-----16
- Alexis Manuel-----18
- Lena Showman-----19
- Renee Burrows-----19
- Meadow Whiting-----21
- Marge Divens-----22
- Justin Bell-----22
- Dot Jones-----22
- Dallas Travers-----22
- Julie Dean-----23
- Hilary Robison-----24
- Mitchell Whiting-----25
- Kelly Fox-----26
- Jake Smith-----27
- Helen Ruby-----29
- Jim Matthews-----31



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The food distribution from the Pittsburgh Food Bank will be held on Friday, July 9, from 3:00P.M. - 4:30P.M.

If anyone is interested in having one of the books of poetry and pictures that Jane Clingan's family had made for her, please see June Smith for information how to get one.

Jesus said more about **MONEY** than **LOVE**

The Bible is filled with **practical** and **relevant** wisdom on saving, spending, debt and even investing.

Whether you are well-off or struggling, *Financial Peace University* will unpack how these timeless truths apply to your life, today.

Visit daveramsey.com/fpu for more info.

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
 UNIVERSITY

Check out the free preview on August 8.
 Classes start August 22 and go for 13 weeks..
 Contact the Church office (724-964-8055) or
 Dan Dieter (724-964-3102) to sign up / get more info.

YOUTH NEWS

Hey beach bums!! The plans for “A Closer Walk” conference in Wildwood, NJ have been set. We are LEAVING Wed., July 14th at 8AM. Some will meet at my house, and some at Brenda Hostetler’s. Please be at the appropriate location at 7:30 to be sure we can hit the highway by 8AM. If there’s anyone in the congregation who would like to send some baked “goodies” for our 8 hour road trip, I’m sure it would be much appreciated!! Please pray for our safety, our fellowship with other Christians as we’re “roughing” it on the beach, and most importantly, that each one of us will grow closer to God. We will be returning sometime on Sunday, July 18th. Thank you to all of those who gave monetary donations or baked goodies for our bake sale. Because this is our first experience with this particular conference (and because we’re spending this trip on the beach), we funded this trip entirely with fundraisers and donations. Again, thank you for your support.

The Kennywood trip is scheduled for Thursday, July 29th. We will be meeting at the church at 9AM and returning at approx. 11PM. If you would like to bring a packed lunch, we will go to the bus to eat one meal. All are welcome to come; however, the youth get the available seats on the bus. The cost will be \$25.00 and can be given to Geniene ASAP.

I don’t have official dates yet but yes, the youth will be taking their annual trip to Moraine to ride the bike trail. Of course we’ll stop at Mr. C’s Funspot on the way home. I’m also working on a date for a canoe trip. That won’t be until August. Continue to watch the bulletin and your e-mails.

I hope you’re all enjoying your summer!!! And if you’re not aware, we DO have Sunday School in the summer! I miss seeing many of you!

