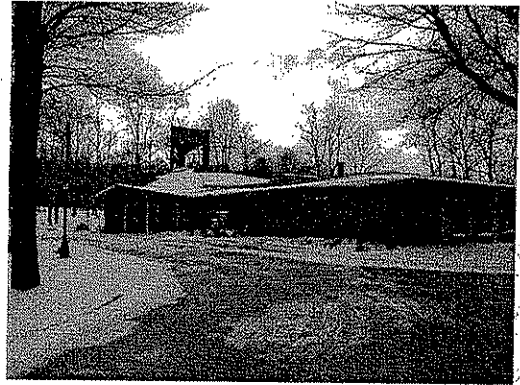


**Redeeming Times**  
*A monthly newsletter of*  
**New Bedford Presbyterian Church**

*As We Prepare for Easter*

**March Edition 2007**



Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church:

Two weeks ago Kim and I attended a New Wineskin Convention. It was a wonderful time of worship and fellowship. Also, the convention was held at First Presbyterian Church in Orlando, FL. We enjoyed the five days we spent in the sun. We stayed in a hotel that was three miles from Disney World and while at the hotel we were surrounded by children wearing mouse ears. We did not go to Disney World, but I was reminded by the desire of so many people to live in a fantasy world.

This Lenten season we remind ourselves that our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified by and for the world. The reality of the world is suffering, sin, and greed. It is nice to hear songs like "It's a Small World After All," but the reality is hatred and warfare. In our great pursuit for happiness and comfort we often try to live in a Disney world or a TV world and close our eyes to the real world.

The reality is the world, apart from the cross of Christ, is destroying itself and yes, even going to Hell. Hope is not found in the "goodness of man." Hope is not found in our governmental leaders. Hope is not even found in "the family." *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* The world is seeped in bad news.

This Lenten Season we celebrate the Good News. Hope is found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ does not invite us to escape from the world by vacations and fantasy. Christ empowers us to live in the sinful world proclaiming hope, love, and justice. Worship for us should be that time of empowerment. We "retreat" into worship in order to "go out" into service.

The question is this, "Are we lights in a dark world?" In this real world of sin and hopelessness, does our faith stand out? Are you living in a world of fantasy or are you living in the real world by the grace of Christ? In this Lenten Season, let us be empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve our Lord.

In Christ,

Doug Runyan



## Summer Camp 2007 Sign-Up

Now is the time to sign up to go to Summer Camp. Brochures for Seneca Hills are available on the table in the entranceway. Summer camp is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children or grandchildren. There are weeks for children from age five to age eighteen. There are also Family Camps for Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Again, this year the church will give every kid going to a week long camp a \$120.00 scholarship.

### Birthdays

Gene Bicehouse	3
Dee Haines	3
Steve Fox	3
Jean Rishel	7
Sue Bluedorn	8
Jason Preisel	9
Glenda Fulkman	10
Gert Bretz	11
Jessica Cuscino	1
Bob Whiting	11
Larry Bluedorn	15
Jim Allison	17
Sandy Saulpaugh	17
Shirley Ruby	18
Dan Dieter	19
Ed Rudzik	20
Perry Boyer	21
Erik Boyer	25
Jamie Swiger	26
Ryan Morse	27
Judy Stuhmann	29
Helen Bicehouse	30

We will also include those who have a birthday the first week in April:

Jane Clingan	2
Esther Bruce	3
Marci Kline	4
Barb Pence	4
Ben Mentzer	5
Gary Fulkman	7

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

Art Spence	Recuperating at home
Justin Dillon	Home
Donna Ealy	Home
Katharine Bell	Cedar Manor
Shirley Ruby	Home
Verda Hepler	Home
Dee Haines	Home at Harvey Jr.'s

Gladys Barnhart	Allegheny Hospital
Lauretta Black	Home
Helen Ruby	Recuperating at Home
Gertie Bretz	Overlook (for therapy)

### From the Library

New acquisitions for the library at the New Bedford Presbyterian Church:

1. Austin, Lynn – *"All She Ever Wanted"*
2. Basman, Michael – *"Chess for Kids"*
3. Cavanaugh, Jack – *"Dear Enemy"*
4. Kennedy, D. James – *"What if Jesus had never been born?"* (Video)
5. Kingsbury, Karen – *"Divine"*
6. Kingsbury, Karen – *"Forgiven"*
7. Leon, Bonnie – *"For the Love of the Land"*
8. Leon, Bonnie – *"The Heart of Thornton Creek"*

### Joel Osteen Wrap-Up

Twenty-one people went by our church bus on Friday, February 23, 2007 to see Pastor Joel Osteen in Cleveland, OH. We were among 20,000 other Christians. It was a night of worship, music and warm, loving encouragement from Joel. Thanks to Pastor Doug for driving the bus and joining us for this very special trip! We left the Arena around 10 P.M. and returned around midnight. We were all too tired to stop for dessert, but had a nice trip; except we hope next time the temperature outside will be warmer than 15 degrees!

### Women's Circles

1. The Elizabeth Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. here at the church.
2. The Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. here at the church.
3. The Rebecca Circle will meet on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. here at the church.
4. The Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. here at the church.

### Meeting of Mission I & S

The Mission Interpretation & Stewardship Committee has met on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. here at the church.

## Information from our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

To my friends and family of New Bedford Presbyterian Church:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the honor and the privilege of serving as your interim Youth Director. I am very excited and pray that the Lord will give me wisdom and knowledge to guide our youth to Him. These past few weeks have been busy with planning and organizing Bible Studies, activities, and events. I am anxious to see what the Lord has in store for us.

Please pray for all of our youth including KidsZone and Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups. We have a great group of kids who wish to seek God's guidance. Pray for their spiritual walk and that they may be a light in this dark world. I also ask for prayers for me. Pray that the Lord may work in me to be a good example and a good leader and friend to these kids.

Thank you to all for your support and encouraging words. I look forward to working with the youth and getting to know each one of them better. Any suggestions are encouraged and welcomed.

In Christ,  
Geniene

### KidsZone

We have had a wonderful year in KidsZone. Average attendance has been 45-60 kids each week. The kids are picked up at school each week by the church limo (bus) and brought back to the church. They have a time of recreation, class-time, dinner, and music. Our puppet team brings us special messages once a month and our Children's Choir brings us special music during our Sunday morning Worship every month.

Their "offerings" are going to Heifer International to help our church fill an ark. I cannot tell you how excited the kids are about this! We talk about animals that we are able to purchase and how they can help many families. Every week the kids want to know "how much we have" or "what animal can we buy now."

We began the "Resurrection Eggs" on Ash Wednesday. The Resurrection Eggs can help children understand the true meaning of Easter. Each Wednesday, they will receive two (2) eggs with an item in it leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection. At the end, children will be able to take their eggs home with them.

### Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups

A huge thank you to all the parents and volunteers who are helping to build and make our youth groups a success. Thank you to all the kids who are faithful to attend our Bible Studies and activities. Our Jr./Sr. High youth groups meet every Sunday night at 6:00 P.M. We begin together with a time of Praise and Worship led by Pastor Doug. I am leading the Sr. High in a Bible Study entitled "The Seven Checkpoints: Seven Principles Every Teenager Needs to Know," and Shirley Janoski is leading the Jr. High in a Bible Study on self-esteem. The groups then again combine and have a time of fun and fellowship with snacks and an activity that is led by a volunteer parent. We encourage all of the youth to come out and join us on Sunday evenings.

During the month of February, we had a Super Bowl party at the home of Dennis and Lori Jones, went to Victory Christian Center (Victory Assembly of God) to hear Christian comedian Bob Nelson, sponsored a spaghetti dinner organized by Scott and Gail Phillips, went sled riding at Westminster College, had a parent's meeting, had a movie night at Geniene's, along with our Sunday evening youth group time.

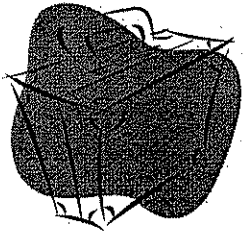
If we have any snow on March 16, 2007, we will be going to Avalanche Express to go snow tubing. An alternate plan will be made just in case. We will also have a lock-in that is scheduled for March 30, 2007. Please plan on practicing with the drama team for the cantata on March 30<sup>th</sup> just before the lock-in.

Sr. High, please remember to be doing your devotions and your student journal that goes along with "The Seven Checkpoints." See you all on Sunday night.

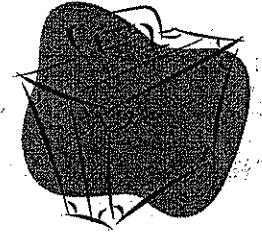
### Please put these important dates on your calendar:

- March 14** KidsZone "share shopping" and parachute party
- March 16** Jr./Sr. High snow tubing at Avalanche Express in Meadville, PA (Pray for snow!)
- March 24** Jr./Sr. High Movie Night at Geniene's from 6-9:00 P.M.
- March 28** Last KidsZone
- March 30** Jr./Sr. High lock-in (Practice for the cantata prior to the lock-in.)

**An open invitation for all women of the church  
to attend the 2007  
Annual Women's Retreat!**



**Deal or No Deal**



**April 20-21, 2007  
at The Castle in Franklin, PA**

This retreat will be organized by: Jackie Hall, Barb Carr, and Toni Reynolds. Our retreats have always been a time to recharge our batteries, bond with our sisters in Christ, and this year provides a chance to receive:

**Deal or No Deal?  
Be at the retreat to get the real meaning of our new topic.**

The fee is \$50.00 per person and includes bus fare (if needed), Friday night's lodging, two (2) Saturday meals, and all the retreat materials! There are also scholarships available for all or part of your fee, just call Jackie Hall at 724.654.7057, Barb Carr at 724.964.8003, or Toni Reynolds at 724.964.0718 for more information on that. Please do not let the money keep you away...we want you with us!!!

We will need a \$10.00 deposit as soon as possible to hold your reservation. The balance of \$40.00 will be due on or before Sunday, April 8, 2007. Please take the Christian challenge and bring a friend...it could be worth a deal or no deal.

Registration and finances will be handled by: Barb Carr, Lori Jones, and Brenda Hostetler. Please tear off the slip below, complete it, and return it to someone listed above.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Need the "Limo" Bus:**      **YES / NO**

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to "New Bedford Presbyterian Church" and write "Women's Retreat 2007" in the memo line.

**Please enclose at least your \$10 deposit. Any balance due by Sunday, April 8, 2007**

Return to Barb Carr, Lori Jones, or Brenda Hostetler

If you would like some scholarship funding, please let us know. We really want you to be with us!!!

## Thank You

To our beloved choir and friends:

Just a quick note to thank you for the beautiful music stand. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generous heart to bring George's memory to the forefront with such an elaborate piece of art. This was another "perfect" expression of your love.

It truly honors George and his ministry by the people he loved the most! This choir was one of George's greatest blessings, and he loved directing so much, and told everyone what a great choir you were. He loved each of you and I thank you for returning that love to him.

Thanks again, I love you all, Debi.

## Gaither Homecoming: Give It Away Tour 2007

If any individuals are interested in attending on your own, the performance will be held on Friday, March 9, 2007 at Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh, PA. The show starts at 7:00 P.M. featuring: The Gaither Vocal Band, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Ben Speer, The Easter's, and so many more. Ticket prices are: Artist Circle \$36.50, Gold Circle \$26.50, and General Reserved \$19.50. All tickets are subject to service charges and can be ordered online by visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling 412.323.1919.

## Administration Meeting

The Administration Committee will meet on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 8:00 P.M. here at the church.

## Special Choir Practices

We are now in the time of Lent leading up to Easter, the resurrection of our Lord. Due to the Easter Cantata in April, Choir members will have an extra practice time, on top of your regular Wednesday night practices, allotted every week through the month of March to prepare for the Cantata. The practice will be EVERY Friday night in March from 7-9:00 P.M. here at the church.

## Women's Association

There will be an Executive Women's Association meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. here at the church.

There will be a Women's Association meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. here at the church. We will be having a representative,

Jennifer Gordon, speak from Habitat for Humanity. Please make every effort to attend. Along with us, we will be inviting some of our sister churches. Please RSVP to Sandy Courson at 724.964.8877 by March 13, 2007. We hope to see you all this night. Thank you.

## Session Meeting

There will be a Session meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. here at the church.

## Deacon's Meeting

There will be a Deacon's meeting on Monday, March 26, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. here at the church.

## Lenten Fellowship Times

Ash Wednesday began on February 21, 2007 this year. We Christians observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual condition and to strive to improve our relationship with God. New Bedford Presbyterian Church is doing something new this year during Lent. We will not be having our regular soup and salad programs. Instead, we will be having fellowship times hosted by four families in the church homes. We are a growing church and seeing a lot of new faces. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other. Fellowship times will be held every Sunday night in March on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 P.M. Each home will have the same Bible Study entitled "Introduction to life in Christ." Come out for food, fun, and fellowship and get to know God's Word along with getting to know your church family.



## Monday Fun Group

The Monday Fun Group is meeting every Monday from 1-4:00 P.M. at the church. The group is for anyone over 50 and is open to anyone in the community. A variety of activities are planned. If you have any questions, call Martha Boyer at 724.964.8747.

## Easter Flowers

The Deacons of the church will be doing another Easter flower sale for those of you who wish to remember or honor someone. More information will be forthcoming about the sale in the Sunday morning bulletins.

## EASTER SCHEDULE

### Lenten Offering

During Worship Service on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007, we will be collecting a Lenten Offering. One half of the offering will go towards the Heifer Project (Ark) and the other half will go towards Samaritan's Purse. Enclosed with this edition of the Redeeming Times is a Lenten offering envelope.

Heifer (Project) International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and caring for the earth by providing livestock, trees, training and other resources to help struggling families around the globe.

Animals from Heifer provide milk, eggs, wool, draft power and other benefits that can mean improved nutrition, higher income, education for children, health care and improved housing – literally, a new way of life.



Since 1944, Heifer has helped 7 million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and become more self-reliant. Heifer requires recipients to "pass on the gift" by sharing training, skills, and offspring of their livestock with others in need. "Passing on the gift" multiplies the benefits of every donated animal, and makes recipients equal partners with Heifer in the fight against poverty and hunger. It is a commonsense approach to sustainable development that works – one family at a time.

Samaritan's Purse is incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of North Carolina. Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of

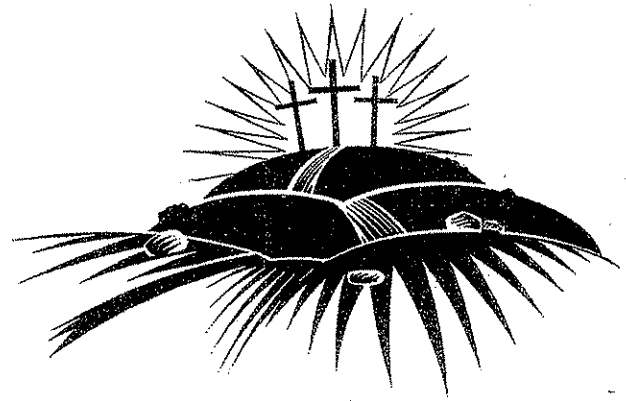
war, poverty, natural disaster, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Organization serves the church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The founder is Franklin Graham, son of the Rev. Billy Graham.

## Easter Cantata

### On a Hill Too Far Away

Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007

4:00 P.M. in the Church Sanctuary



There will be a soup supper to follow the production in the fellowship hall and everyone is invited to attend.

## Good Friday Service

On Good Friday, April 6, 2007, we will have a Good Friday Service, which reflects on the crucifixion of our Savior, at 7:00 P.M. here at the church.

## New Bedford Community Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7, 2007 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. here at the church. This will be held on the church lawn. It is



for children 2 years old through and including grade 3 and parents. Come rain or snow... whatever the weather will be, the hunt will go on. Activities include egg hunt by age, music, puppet show, crafts, and snacks. The cost is FREE! Come and join us and make a memory for your child!

## Sunrise Service and Easter Sunday



# RESURRECTION SUNDAY

There will be a Sunrise Service beginning at 8:00 A.M. on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007. The youth and children of the church will present a program at this service and a light breakfast will follow.

Sunday school will be at our normal time at 9:15 A.M.

We will celebrate Resurrection Morning with songs of praise and worship during Worship Service at 10:30 A.M.

### Easter Candy and Bake Sale

The Shenango Presbyterian SeniorCare Auxiliary Executive Committee will be sponsoring an Easter candy and bake sale in the Shenango Presbyterian SeniorCare Lobby in New Wilmington, PA. The lobby is located on the Market Street entrance.

**Thursday, March 29, 2007**

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

**Friday, March 30, 2007**

9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

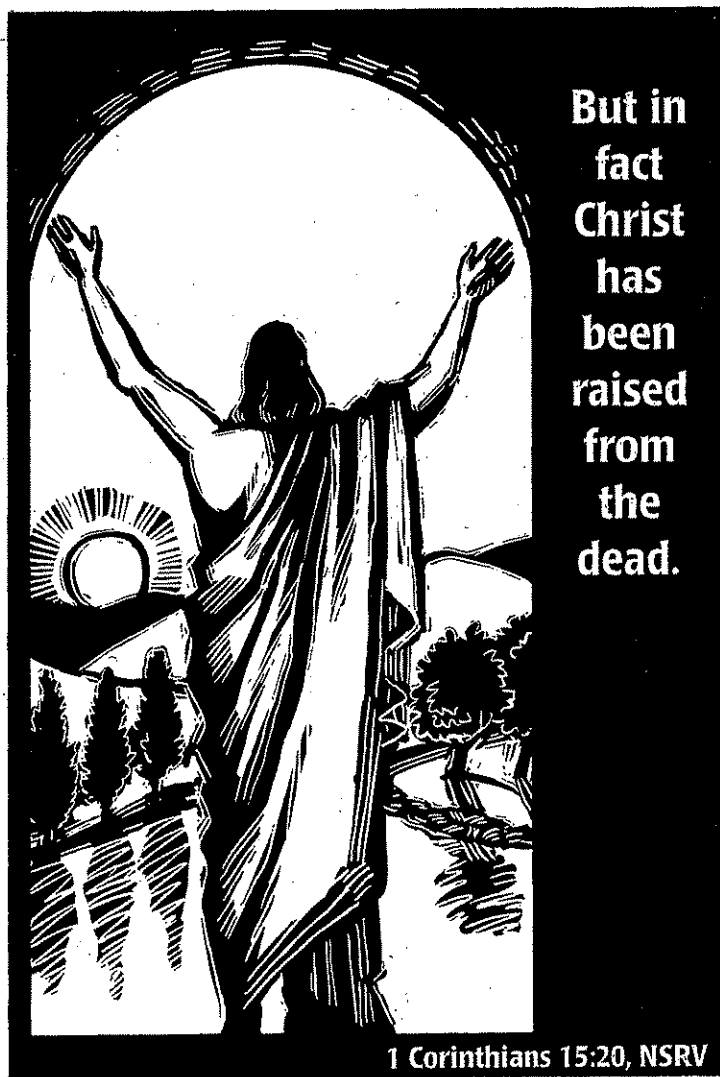
Bring your donations Wednesday afternoon, March 28, or early Thursday morning.

### Mission Luncheon

Once again, FOOD! Following Worship Service on Sunday, March 11, 2007, everyone in the congregation is invited to stay for lunch in the fellowship hall. Everything will be provided and our cooks are Brad and Marti Marshall. This luncheon will be to support a mission trip to Mexico in June of this year.

### Harvester's

This is just a notice that the next upcoming Harvester's meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2007 here at the church.



**But in  
fact  
Christ  
has  
been  
raised  
from  
the  
dead.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NSRV

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