

REDEEMING TIMES

A NEWSLETTER OF

NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JUNE 2006

Dear Members and Friends of new Bedford Church,

This Newsletter will be different than any newsletter I have ever written. It will deal with issues that our national church (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.) is facing. I write this letter because at the end of June I will serve as a delegate to our General Assembly meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. I was elected by our Presbytery. This will be the first time I will serve as a delegate... usually you are elected once every twenty five to thirty years.

This General Assembly (G.A.) is considered the most crucial meeting we have had in decades. Many, many critical issues will be decided. First and foremost, the issue of homosexual ordination (as elders, deacons and ministers) will be decided. First, a brief history. In 1993 the G.A. Approved an "Authoritative Interpretation" of our Book of Order (our denominational constitution) stating. "Unrepentant homosexual practice does not accord with the requirements for ordination set forth in the Book of Order." This would be similar to a Supreme Court decision in our national government. In 1996 the Book of Order was amended (by votes in over one hundred Presbyteries) stating those who are called to ordained office in the church must "either live in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a women, or chastity in singleness. (G-6.0106b)" For the past ten years these two "pillars" banning homosexual ordination (based on the clear teaching from Scripture) have been under attack. Every year at G.A. an attempt is made to remove the Definitive Guidance (all have failed by very close votes) and twice the Book of Order has attempted to be amended removing the sentence banning homosexual ordination.... both times the Presbyteries have overwhelming voted to retain this prohibition.

Six years ago the General Assembly voted to create a committee to study this issue. It is called the "Peace, Unity, Purity Committee (P.U.P.). The P.U.P. report is before this G.A. One recommendation is the heart of this six year study. "Recommendation Five" issues a new "Authoritative Interpretation." It states that local ordaining bodies (Presbyteries for ministers and churches for elders and deacons) can determine if the constitutional requirement requiring "fidelity in marriage between a man and a women" is "essential" in determining a persons qualifications for ordination. In other words the constitution can be ignored if it is deemed "non-essential."

If this recommendation is passed a number of Presbyteries (probably about 23 out of 173) will immediately begin ordaining unrepentant gay men and women. Immediately a small number of churches will begin ordaining unrepentant gay men and women as elders. The constitution of the denomination will be in shambles as each presbytery will decide what is "essential." Is belief in Jesus Christ "essential?" Each church and Presbytery will decide. Issue after issue will be determined by denominational courts and ultimately secular courts. There will be no Peace, Unity and certainly no Purity.

The primary issue here is the authority of scripture. Will we as a denomination look to scripture as a source of truth and guidance. Those who are in sexual sin (either heterosexual or homosexual) are certainly welcome in our churches. We are all sinners. This sin is no worse than other sins. Leadership in our church, however, requires a recognition of our sinfulness and a repentance of our sin.

The other major issue for this G.A. is a report of yet another six year Study Group on the Trinity. Again, in a very brief summary, the Paper recommends “Creative and freshly imaginative” ways of understanding the Trinity. Metaphors such as “Mother, Beloved Child, Life-Giving womb, Rainbow, Ark, or Dove are suggested as alternatives for Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Re News, a Publication of Presbyterian for Renewal gives this critique listing the failure of this study

1. God names God. God is self revealed Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. The revelation of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is not a metaphor. The name is rooted not in our experience but in the relationship within the Trinity

Furthermore, this study on the Trinity does not mention Scripture texts such as Matthew 11 (Jesus talks of His oneness with the Father), or John 14-17 (Jesus says “I am in the Father and the Father is in Me”) or Acts 2:32 (Peter talking of the relationship between the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit). How can a study of the Trinity omit the key scripture texts on the Trinity? Again, G.A. will decide to adopt this study or reject it or send it back to committee.

Other major issues face this G.A. such as... The relationship of Christianity and Islam. Issues on abortion. Issues on per capita. Issues on divestment of funds associated with Israel.

Please pray for me as I spend a week at G.A. Please pray for our denomination. Pray for renewal. Pray for truth. We are, of course, a diverse denomination. That is good. But diversity must be under the common bond of God’s Word and Truth, the Scriptures. This is essential.

In Christ,

Doug

SOME COMING EVENTS

June 8----Christian Ed Meeting 7:00P.M.

June 11-----Honoring graduates at worship service with cake and punch reception to follow

Harvesters meet on Monday, June 12 at 12:00noon
Administration Committee meeting at 8:00P.M.

Special Session Meeting June 14th at 7:00P.M.

Women’s Association meeting at the church at 7:00P.M. on Thursday, June 15th
Pastor Doug leaves for General Assembly in Birmingham, AL for a week on June 15th
Dr. Jonathan Watt from Geneva College will speak at morning worship on June 18th

Deacons meeting on June 26th at 7:00P.M.

Session meets on June 29th at 7:00P.M. (Note change of date)

SAVE YOUR LABELS AND BOXTOPS

Pulaski Elementary School wants your soup labels. Please look for the "Labels for Education" symbols on food items like Campbells Soups, Prego Spaghetti Sauce, Swanson's Broth, and V-8 drinks. We also collect Big G Box Tops and "Project A+" from Tyson Chicken products. The school earns .10 cents apiece from each Bog G Box Top collected and .25 cents from each Tyson Chicken tab collected. The school has been able to purchase playground equipment like jump ropes, basketballs, and soccer balls from the labels collected. The money the school earns goes toward assemblies, field trips, and educational supplies for the students. You will find a collection box next to the Sunday School Office to put your labels in. When saving soup labels, please save only the front panel that pictures the soup variety. The school need the whole tab off of Tyson Chicken foods for the company to accept them. (Please cut this out and save it for future references.)

GOLF OUTING

There is information on the bulletin board re: the Wilmington Area Football Coaches 8th Annual Golf Scramble. It will be held on June 24th at Rolling Hills Golf Course. All the information yo need is on the papers on the bulletin board and extra applications are available in the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Adam Runyan on their marriage on Saturday, May 27th in New Jersey.

Mrs. Runyan is the former Bethanne Gray. We wish for them a long and happy life together.

Their new address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Adam Runyan
Box 513
200 Manor Avenue
Langhorne, PA 19047

Thank you for the gifts and prayers for Adam and Bethanne Runyan. Doug and Kim Runyan

THANK YOU

We wish to express our thanks to all of you who were generous with your gifts to us for Alec's surgery in Boston. At the present time he is doing well. However, we know this will be a life long process he will face, but with God's healing power we pray for a lengthy rest from all his surgeries.

Joe and Shannon Marshall

Dick and Darlene Robison

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I want to thank the folks of New Bedford Church for the cards and prayers for myself and my husband during our recent hospitalization. I'm doing much better and Kenny is being transferred from Harmarville to New Castle area soon. Your kindness and caring mean so much to us.

Kenny and Debbie (Hanna) Werner

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We thank members and friends of the congregation for calls and prayers for Larry during his knee surgery and during his recuperation. We thank Pastor Doug for his visits and calls. Your kindness will always be remembered.

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We thank you all so much for the cards and calls, expressions of sympathy and most of all for all the prayers for our family at the death of our son and grandson. Your love and caring meant so much to us at this difficult time.

Marge Divens and family

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

Justin Dillon-----home

Donna Ealy-----home

Katharine Bell-----Cedar Manor

Ed Beckman-----Home

Betty Wetherstein----St. John XXIII Nursing Home

Shirley Ruby-----Home

Dee Haines-----Home at Harvey Jr.

Verda Hepler-----Home

Grace Baughman-----Home with her daughter

Jeanine Keesey-----Taking treatments

Wally Huber-----Waiting for liver transplant

Jane Walker-----Nursing Home in Florida

Her address is: c/o St. Marks Village/Assisted Living
880 Highlands Blvd Room 3210
Palm Harbor, FL 34684-2827

SESSION NOTES

The following people were received into membership of New Bedford Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 4th.

Jamie McCarthy-----affirmation of faith
Samantha Smith-----affirmation of faith

Confirmation Class

Kelly Fox
Rachael Shugars
Samantha Shugars
Ariana Carr
Cody Boyer
Curtis Bretz
Kristi Jones

Those receiving Christian Baptism were:

Rachael Shugars, Samantha Shugars,
Samantha Smith

MISSION TRIP

Consider joining us in helping the people of Louisiana so they may have something to be thankful for.

Plans are being made for a mission trip during the thanksgiving week. People are needed to help with physical work and non-physical work. We will also need people to prepare food. A short meeting was held on Sunday and more information will be coming. If you are interested in going please call Lori Jones at 724-658-6304 for more information.

REST STOP

We will be manning a coffee break rest stop as a fund raiser for the Mission Trip to Louisiana over the July 4th holiday weekend. Please help by donating cookies, other supplies (like paper products, creamers, sugar, cold drink mix, tea etc.).

Keep watching the bulletin for more information.

SOME SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH WATER AND THE WORD ACTIVITIES

All youth entering 6th grade to high school are invited. Also college age youth and parents are invited a youth advisors and helpers

It is a time to have fun together and a time of Bible Study.

We will travel to the Shenango Reservoir for a time of boating, skiing, tubing, swimming lunch and Bible Study.

Dates are June 14th.....June 28th.....

July 12th and other dates to be announced. Meet at the church at 10:00A.M. and arrive back at the church between 3:00-3:30P.M.

Bring \$3.00 each time for gas and good.

Monday, June 12 from 12 noon to 2:00P.M. the youth will meet at the home of Geniene Jones for a time of lunch, swimming, and Bible Study. Jr. Hi, Sr. Hi and all those entering Jr. Hi are welcome. We will be discussing our study topic for the summer. Please come with your swimming suit, Bibles and be ready for some fun.

OTHER YOUTH NEWS

- Netta has a baby girl. Breah Noel
- Vacation Bible School July 9 - 14
- We are interviewing for a new youth person
- Sign up for Seneca Hills or a Summer Camp the church pays half the cost.

HARVESTERS NEWS

All Senior Citizens are welcome to join the Harvesters group. They meet the second Monday of each month. This month the meeting will be on June 12. The program will be Pat Mentzer showing us the inside "scoop" on how the Puppet Ministry works. We will also be celebrating Father's Day. We must have your reservation by today--June 7th (Wednesday) and June 8th at the latest. If you have to cancel a reservation call Renee by Saturday and we'll try to cancel for you. (We do have to pay when you don't show up!) Thank you and we hope to see you there.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's Association will meet at the church on June 15th. The Lydia Circle is the hostess circle.

The speaker is Ruth Johnson who will speak to us re: Westminster Highlands Camping Facilities. All women of the church is invited to come to this meeting.

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The Rebecca Circle will meet at the church on Monday evening, June 19th at 7:00P.M.

The Lydia circle will meet at the church on Monday evening, June 19th at 7:30P.M.

On Saturday, June 17th at 12:00noon the Elizabeth Circle and their children will be meeting at Pearson Park in Neshannock Twp for a time of fun and fellowship. Bring your own picnic lunch.

Thank you to Sandy Courson, Bonnie Glogowski and all the men and boys who served at the Mother Daughter Banquet. It was a really nice evening and yes Elvis has left the building.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kevin and Annetta Dewberry on the birth of a baby girl, Brea Noel born Friday, May 26th. We welcome this little one into the fellowship of the church.

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Congratulations to Jim and Connie Shick on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1st.

Congratulations to Harry and Juanita Cornman who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 16th.

The congregation is invited to the wedding of Rachel Jones and Dan Bobic here at the church on Saturday, June 10th at 2:00P.M.

GRADUATES HONORED

This coming Sunday, June 11, 2006 the high school graduates will be honored during worship service. College graduates will be recognized also. There will be a time of cake and punch following worship service when you may congratulate the graduates.

GRADUATES

Congratulations to the following young people who will be graduating from high school and those who have graduated from college.

Taylor Bochy-----Wilmington Area High School
Emily Bretz-----Wilmington Area High School
Harvey Flowers-----Wilmington Area High School
Autumn Hall-----Wilmington Area High School
Rebecca Halt-----Wilmington Area High School
Kyle McConnell-----Union Area High School
Mike Miller-----Lawrence Co. Vo Tech
Mark Minich-----Lawrence Co. Vo Tech
Jon Reynolds-----Wilmington Area High School
Amber Shaffer-----Wilmington Area High School

College Graduates that we know of:

Philip Book----Slippery Rock University wit a B.S Degree in Business Administration/Human Resource Management

Ray Pence -----Butler community College with an Associate Degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Technology

Ben Mentzer from Westminster College with a B.A. Degree in Education

Emily Downs-----Penn State University with a B.A Degree in Political Science and minor in Business and also in Sociology.

INVITATION

The congregation is invited to an Open House Graduation Party for Autumn Hall here at the church on Saturday, June 17th from 12:00noon to 4:00P.M.

SYMPATHY

As a caring congregation we extend our sincere love and sympathy to Marge Divens and family at the death of her grandson last month.

“We wait in hope from the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord even as we put our hope in you”.

Psalm 33: 20-22

BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE AND THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY

Helen Groce-----June 2
 Kirstin Ladesic -----June 3
 Carl Black-----June 4
 Greg Carna-----June 4
 Buzz Cunningham-----June 4
 Pearl Reed-----June 6
 Lisa Craig-----June 7
 Dennis Jones-----June 7
 Autumn Marshall-----June 7
 Marissa Carr-----June 12
 June Smith-----June 12
 Ray Janoski-----June 12
 Jenna Gates-----June 17
 Marie Holtzman-----June 17
 Sam Varano-----June 18
 Christian Fulkman-----June 19
 Suzanne Ladesic-----June 20
 Geniene Jones-----June 22
 Carrie Bretz-----June 22
 Sydney Cuscino-----June 23
 Jennifer Saulpaugh-----June 23
 Jackie Keeseey-----June 24
 Mike Ladesic-----June 27
 Tim Smith-----June 27
 Matt Anderson-----June 28
 Ashlyn McAllen-----June 28
 John Anderson-----June 29
 Robyn Pence-----June 29
 Dot Rishel-----June 29
 Ruth Orth-----June 30
 Harry Ripley-----June 30
 Ed Beckman-----July 9
 Tracy Duffy-----July 6

If you do not see your birthday here and would like to please turn your information in to the office.

For all you motorists traveling on vacation this summer please remember:

45 mph God Will Take Care of you
 55mph Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah
 65mph Nearer My God to Thee
 75mph Nearer Still Nearer
 85mph This World Is Not My Home
 95mph Lord, I'm Coming Home
 Over 100mph Precious Memories

DID YOU KNOW

- Bobby Morehead poured the punch for the festivities for new members
- Tad and Carol Shura are in Ireland.. We just hope a leprechaun doesn't carry Tad away so we may hear tales from the Isle of Green
- Debi finally got to see the Atlantic Ocean and even got her feet in it.
- The six passengers that went to the Runyan wedding would trust Geniene to drive us anywhere, anytime.
- Pastor Doug is going to General Assembly as a delegate. Please be in prayer for him.

A few of the ladies that went to the Runyan wedding stopped in Philadelphia to spend a couple hours with Wally and Ginny Huber. He is officially on the transplant list for a new liver and currently is receiving treatments. Please continue to keep them both in prayer during this time of waiting.

They also shared that their daughter and son-in-law Melody and Craig Divine are expecting their first child. Also Steve and his family are doing well and his church is really growing. They now have 3 churches that they serve.

AT A HYMN SING THE SONG LEADER SAID
 THEY WOULD SING SONGS FOR EVERYONE

The Dentist's Hymn---Crown Him with Many Crowns
the Weatherman's Hymn--Showers of Blessing
The Contractor's Hymn--The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn----Holy, Holy, Holy
The Golfer's Hymn----There Is A Green Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn--Standing on the Promises
the Optometrist's Hymn--Open My Eyes That I May See
The IRS Agent's Hymn--I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn-----Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn----Send the Light
The Shopper's Hymn-----Sweet By and By
The Realtor's Hymn---I've Got A Mansion Over the Hilltop
The Message Therapist's Hymn----He Touched Me
The Doctor's Hymn-----The Great Physician