

REDEEMING TIMES
NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2007



Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

When the elders meet once per month we spend the first half hour of our meeting, not discussing the business of the church, rather we discuss the general condition of the church. We always ask ourselves; "Are we walking in the will of the Lord?" This is often a time of learning. Last week the elders discussed an article written by Herb Miller (a church health expert) entitled How to Seize Tomorrow. This article discussed how churches should move into their future. It did this by asking six questions. Allow me to share with you the first two questions and some of the answers the elders came up with during our discussion.

Question # 1 Where are we as a church in our life cycle? The elders recognize the fact that we are a church that is over two hundred years old. The statistical fact is that younger congregation (under 40 years old) tend to grow much quicker than more established congregations. The article states; "*Beyond age 40, healthy congregations reinvent themselves by planting new ministries in the garden of corporate souls. Dysfunctional congregations beyond the age of 40 fixate on what did or did not work at and earlier developmental stage. This behavior moves them down hill, toward old age and eventual death.*"

We as a session recognize our need to move into the future. We must not "rest on our laurels." We believe we are a healthy congregation. We have a good mix of ages. We have both the guidance and wisdom of our seniors and the vitality and energy of our youth. We believe we have many effective ministries touching all ages. This past summer we began a new Beth Moore Bible Study that had over 30 women faithfully studying the Word of God. A new study is beginning this Fall. But we also recognize that we are not reaching the community as effectively as we could. We recognize there are gaps in our ministries. We do indeed believe in our local area "the harvest is ripe." We recognize that the Lord is calling us to be "His workers".

Question # 2 Where are we in our dream cycle? Again to quote Miller: "*Effective churches are not merely circumstance driven. They are dream driven. Wise leaders plant a new dream when ministries that the last dream generated become so institutionalized that they no longer inspire people.*" The elders shared a two fold dream, inner growth and outer growth. We desire to grow closer to the Lord as a congregation. We desire each and every individual who is part of our ministry to grow in their faith. We offer many bible studies. We offer ministries to our teens and children. We offer worship. We desire to encourage and guide our church family into these ministries.

We also need to grow outwardly. We desire to reach into our community with the Good News of Christ. We desire to add to the number of our church family. Inner growth is dependant on outer growth. We grow in our faith by sharing our faith with others. Our goal is not to become a "Mega church". Our goal is to grow into the family of believers the Lord would have us be.

Over the next few months the elders will continue to define our dream. From a dream we then will move into strategic planning. Please share your ideas with the elders. It is our desire to walk close to the Lord in all we do.

Faithfully Yours



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH is a very special day. Christians around the world will join together at the Lord's table to partake of the sacrament. What a great day that will be!

Consider what an amazing table the Lord's table is! In a sense it stretches around the whole earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Evangelical Christians, Presbyterian Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names we may never have heard of, will gather in their place of worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: Remember him!

This do," he said, "in remembrance of me." Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted up the cup holding the wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice and loving concern for each of us. How could we ever forget him?

Remember, also as we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace that we are brothers and sisters in Christ with Christians around the whole world.

"In Christ there is no east or west; In him no south or north; But one great fellowship of love, Throughout the whole wide earth."

We invite all who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior to come to the table with us on Sunday, October 7th to participate in World Communion

MESSIAH PRACTICE

You are invited to sing with the New Castle Music Club Chorus as it presents its 67th performance of George Frederick Handel's *Messiah*. Rehearsals are Mondays from 7:00 - 9:00P.M. in the First Presbyterian Church, New Castle, A lighted lot is available for parking. The first practice was October 1 but there is still time to come and be a part of this wonderful presentation. The performance will be on Sunday November 25th at 3:00P.M. at the Glen-Moore Presbyterian Church. Harry Cunningham is the director.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Runyan will be conducting an Adult New Member Class which will begin on Wednesday, October 10th and continue on October 17th and 24th. Babysitting will be available upon request.

SYMPATHY

Our congregation extends sincere sympathy to Don and Lisa Craig and family at the passing of Don's mother recently.

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and salvation. He is my fortress, I will not be shaken;" Psalm 62:5,6

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

The ARK is nearly filled!! We have nearly completed our goal of \$5,000 to send these animals all over the world to people struggling to survive, teaching them how to care for the animals they receive, live a better life using their production and sharing their offspring with neighbors. This is a wonderful accomplishment over a short period of time.

MISSION DINNER

A Mission Dinner is planned for Saturday, November 17th (Mark your calendar). All the missions we support have been invited and many will be here for a time to tell of the work they are doing in their particular mission field. Dr. Raught will be here to speak of the Heifer Project; Folks from Caring Hearts, Kevin Green from the Rescue Mission, Jim Cossin from Seneca Hills; A representative from Habitat for Humanity will also be here; Bob Stoll from India Crusade plus many more. Those who cannot make it because of distance will send material about their missions. The dinner will begin at 6:00P.M. and will be cooked by our kitchen committee. We will need a count of the number that will be attending so reservations will be taken with a cost of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. (\$6.00 for a large families).

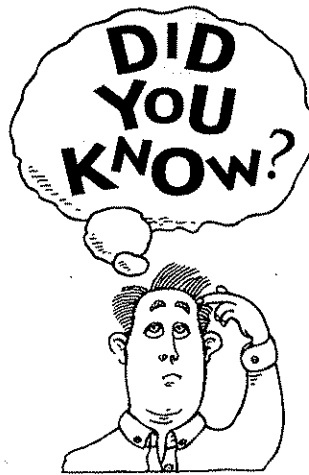
We hope that you are interested in the missions we support and will come and listen and encourage those who have dedicated their lives to missions.

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

Mr. Kevin Green from the City Rescue Mission will be the speaker for Thankoffering Sunday on November 18th. The women will participate in this service.

PUPPET PRACTICE

Puppet practice began on Tuesday, Oct. 2nd and will meet each week at 6:30P.M. on Tuesdays. Young people in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join our team known as Heaven's Hands. The first night we will have training and discuss upcoming goals for the year. If you are interested you may contact Pat Mentzer (724-654-7082 or Lori Jones (724-658-6304). We would love to have you be a part of this special ministry.



-That the 5th and 6th graders wrote and sang their own Praise Songs. Look for them on the bulletin board.

-Debi Fynes is a grandma again. Tom and Cathy Clark have a new son Logan Nathaniel.

-Dillon Dieter loves tomatoes and will eat them right off the vine. Ask Mrs. Smith

-Our own Marissa Car was on the homecoming court at Wilmington High School. Congratulations.

-Ask Doug Houk the best way not to kill a wasp in the kitchen.

-R.J. hit a "creek ball" into Deer Creek

THANK YOU

I want to thank my church family for all the love and support they have given me during my long illness. Some days when I'm really down, a pretty card comes or a phone call or a pop-in visit from one of you and then the day is suddenly much brighter. Thank you also to Pastor Doug and Kim for their love and kindness. God Bless all of you.

Shirley Ruby

.....
A special Thank You to the Adult Handbell Choir, Debi Fynes and Donna Fox, the choir directors. Thank you for your dedication to the music ministries at our church. Thanks for all your amazing talents, skills, and patience (especially with me). I joined the handbell choir in 2005 because I just love the sound of the bells. Before that I had never played handbells and did not know how to read music. Now, after a lot of time, work and patience (from all of us) I know so much more than I did before I began. Thanks again for everything that you all have taught me. I am looking forward to my "third season" with the bell choir.

Peace and Love, Diane McConnell

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Meets at Jameson South Campus, Wednesday, October 10th from 2:00P.M. - 3:00P.M. and will be held the second Wednesday of each month. For more information call 724-656-4250

BIRTHDAYS FOR OCTOBER

Cindy Bell-----1	Gladys Barnhart---21
Robert Hall-----2	Sophia Riachy----21
Don Hartzell-----4	Dylan Sieter-----22
Connie Shick-----5	Elaine Hepler----22
Lucas Bell-----8	Kristin Berlin----24
Jean Chrobak-----8	Kelly Craig-----25
Helen Mraz-----8	Tyler Craig-----25
Norma Belgie-----10	Wyatt Dean-----25
Amanda Rudzik-----10	Debbie Pogozelec-25
Frank Davidson-----11	Irma Tryon-----26
Don "Sam" Jones-----12	Bev Varano-----26
Lisa Carna-----13	Bob Exley-----31
Jack Keesey-----15	Marilyn McConahy-31
Brandy McAllen-----16	
Ariana Carr-----17	
Emily Bretz-----18	
Kristi Jones-----18	
Brock Janoski-----18	
Jacob Berlin-----19	

WOMEN'S NOTES

The Elizabeth Circle met on Monday evening, October 1st at the church

The Rebecca Circle will meet at the church on Monday evening, October 8th at 6:30P.M.

The Deborah Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday morning, October 9th at 9:00A.M.

The Lydia Circle will meet at the church on Monday evening, October 15th, at 7:30P.M.

LADIES:

The Fall Gathering will be held October 20th at the West Middlesex Presbyterian Church.

There are seven different workshops to choose from. Workshop sessions begin at 10:30A.M. and 1:00 P.M.

Registration begins at 9:00A.M. and forms are in the church office and must be sent in by MONDAY!. (Call the church and see if they will still take reservations). There will be a catered lunch (hot ham and cheese sandwich, salads, beverages, desserts) and the cost is \$6.00. Lots more information including the seven workshops and who is leading them is on the sign-up sheet.

FALL BAZAAR

See the entire sheet in this newsletter about the bazaar. We do still need folks to be making items for the bazaar and people to work in the rooms. See Glenda Fulkman or Margie Matthews if you will help with any of this. They also need soup makers.

A new Bible Study is beginning on Thursday evenings at 6:30P.M. here at the church. Gisela Dieter will be leading the study by Beth Moore, **"Jesus, the One and Only"**

It's not too late to sign up or come on Thursday evening.

NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN

A ONE HOUR PRAYER CHAIN AND WITNESS FOR LIFE

OCTOBER 7, 2007

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

New Castle: Washington and Jefferson Streets
Meet at Kennedy Square at 1:30 P.M. for Prayer and Praise Service Life Chain is a one hour "Prayer Chain" and sidewalk witness in defense of God's gift of human life. Bring the whole family! Also you may bring strollers, lawn chairs, umbrellas and water. Come rain or shine.

Also there will be a Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale sponsored by People Concerned for the Unborn Child on Sunday, October 14th from noon to 5:00P.M. Adults is \$7.00 and Children \$3.50

St. Joseph the worker Church in Wehrle Hall

HARVESTERS

Monday, October 8th Harvesters meet for their monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Bob and Lois Adams will entertain with country-style music. All Senior Citizens are invited to join us for a delicious catered meal and fellowship plus wonderful music and entertainment. Your only cost is \$4.00 for the catered meal. Everyone is welcome. Reservations need to be in to Lillian Fulkman at 7240654-2998 one week in advance. Last minute reservations may be taken if possible.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH- Thanksgiving dinner--Over the River and Thru the Woods Bring your Thanksgiving memories

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10--Hymn Sing and Gift Exchange, Pageant. Bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift to exchange. If you're a woman bring a woman's gift and men should bring a man's gift.

JR./SR. HI YOUTH NEWS

It's hard to believe it's October already. Although, we sure don't know it by the weather! God sure has been blessing us with beautiful sunny days. He also blessed us with a nice day for our annual Youth vs. Parents softball game. We didn't have enough youth to make it an official "youth vs. parents" but we did have a good time with hot dogs after the game. I thank everyone who showed up to make the day such a success.



On September 17th we went to Olympic Fun Center in Hermitage. (The third Monday of every month is Christian Music Night.) Unfortunately, there were only 4 of us that went but we had a great time. And I have to admit that Jocelyn Houk is in fact the "queen of laser tag". Ashley Houk is "queen of the climbing wall". It is hard to plan many events now with soccer and football but I'm sure we'll attempt this again sometime later in the year.

Friday, September 28, was the homecoming football game. Our own Marissa Carr was chosen for Homecoming Court. Congratulations Marissa!

I don't have all the details yet, but reserve Sunday October 14th on your calendar. Instead of having youth group, we will be going to Victory Assembly as a group to see a Christian comedian. We've done this in the past and it really is a fun evening. I'll have more details in the bulletin.

Our church will again be hosting a "Trunk or Treat" on Sunday, October 28th. Again more details will follow. I'm sure that the planning committee will need plenty of help from the youth. Start thinking of ideas now!

I am very excited to announce that we will be attending a "Silver Ring Thing" conference at Grove city college on Thursday, November 15th. It is my prayer that every one of our youth AND their parents will consider attending the event. This is a teen conference on abstinence. The cost is only \$5.00 per person and we will take the church bus. If there are any parents with questions, let me know. Please prayerfully consider this event.

Don't forget that the Pie Sale will be over on Sunday, October 7th. Delivery will be on Monday, November 12th. This is our biggest fund raiser for the Niagara Trip! Please be asking your family and friends if they would like to purchase pies for the holidays.



We need adult volunteers to bring a snack and plan a fun activity for our Sunday evening youth group. If everyone signs up, you will only have to do it every 6 months or so. It's really very simple and we have activity books if you need any suggestions. Call Angela Houk with any questions at 724-656-8079.

I know that this is a busy time of the year for many of you and I'm sure it's difficult to balance school, sports and activities. If you're not able to make it to youth group or our events, try to set aside 5 minutes every day to read your Bible or spend time in prayer.

In Christ, Geniene

KIDSZONE NEWS

It'S that time again!!! Kidszone is resuming for the year on Wednesday, October 3rd. I would first like to say "Thank You to all the volunteers.. This as a big commitment but it is also very rewarding. We had to add another class this year due to the large kindergarten size at Pulaski. For those of you who "stepped up to the plate" thank you. I'm so excited for KidsZone and I know that the "rookie" teachers will be glad they decided to help out.

Each child will receive a free t-shirt when they come to KidsZone (which the congregation will get to see when the children sing for worship the first time). If they wear their t-shirt to school on Wednesdays, they will receive a "token" that they will get to go shopping with at the end of the year. Ask some of the children about other things they can get tokens for and the things that they can shop for. I'm sure you will hear some interesting answers.

We will have puppet shows, play games and learn stories from the Bible. Last year, many of the kids were disappointed when KidsZone was over in March. I believe this year is going to be very exciting.

We had our "kick-off" last weekend when we went to Noah's Lost Ark. The kids (as well as the adults) had a wonderful time. We saw many interesting animals. Ask one of the kids what a Zorse is.



All children from K-6th grade are invited to attend KidsZone. You don't have to be a member or even attend our church. Invite your family and neighbors.

Transportation is provided from the elementary and middle schools by the church bus. I look forward to seeing all of our kids there!

Blessings to you all,

Geniene

WANTED

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

Charlotte Wallace-----Home
Justin Dillon-----Home
Katharine Bell-----Home at Barb & Bill Taylor
Shirley Ruby-----Home at Helen's
Verda Hepler-----Home
Dee Haines-----Home at Harvey Jr's
Ray Hilliard-----Home
Nancy Templeton-----Overlook Medical Center
Pete Gorley-----Home
Don Root-----Kindred Hospital, Beaver Pa
Gert Bretz-----Jameson
Juanita Cornman-----Sharon Hospital

WOMEN FOR CHRIST!

LADIES: Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2008 Women's Retreat ! It will be held at the Castle in Franklin on April 18--19. The Theme will be "BRANDED FOR CHRIST", a western theme that will encompass how we live for Christ. Helpers are needed in many different areas of planning. There will be a planning meeting sometime soon, but please contact Diane Bell(724 652 9906) if you are willing to help with anything.

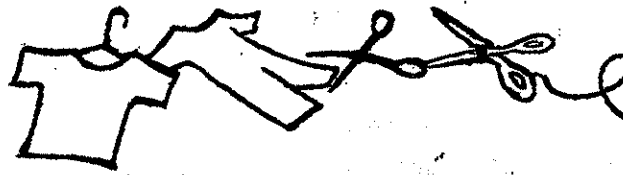
REWARD



We will be having a "Trunk or Treat" on Sunday, October 28th from 4:00P.M. - 7:00P.M. All Children 0 - 12 are invited.

Anyone who wants to participate in handing out their candy and/or decorate their cars are invited to do so. Also please let Scott or Gail Phillips know if you would like a spot to park your car or a table to hand out candy (724-964-8449)

We will need plenty of help and volunteers for this outreach ministry. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate candy, that would be great!

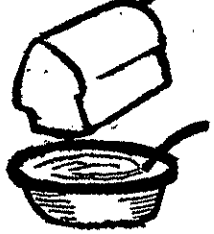


ANNUAL BAZAAR

NEW BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

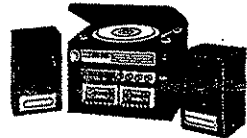
Corner of Woodland Drive and Marr Road

NOVEMBER 3rd, 2007 9:00A.M. - 2:00P.M.



Christmas Room

Trash and Treasure



Craft room

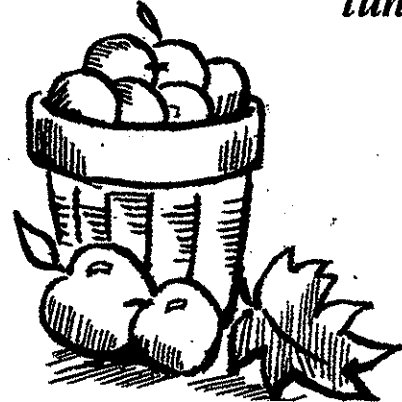
Plant Room



Candy Room



Soup and Sandwiches for lunch plus Homemade Pies





MAY GRACE AND PEACE
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

I PETER I:2, NRSV

REDEEMING TIMES
OCTOBER 2007

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