

Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

As we move from our busy Easter season we encounter a very busy May. There are three major church celebrations in May.

On May 10th we celebrate Mother's Day. It gives us the opportunity to praise God (as well as the women in our lives) for the blessings we have received. *Proverbs 31* gives us a description of a "wife of noble character." Here is the description....

**A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family
She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:**

Notice the amazing description of a "woman of noble character." She is a woman of God both in the home and in the work place. She is a business woman and a woman who manages her home. The final sentence is critically important.... children and husbands are to praise our mothers and wives and thank God for the blessing we have.

Two weeks after Mother's Day is our celebration of Memorial Day. Once again in our worship we will honor our servicemen and women past and present. Lead by our choir we will pray for our nation, pray for our armed forces and thank the Lord for the heritage of our nation. We praise God that we are "one nation under God." This is indeed one of the highlights of the year in our church family.

The final Sunday of the month is Pentecost Sunday. This is the day we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending upon the believers after the ascension of our Lord. It is considered the third great celebration of the church. As I stress during our celebrations of Easter and Christmas, we are not just celebrating a past event. The Pentecost we will also celebrate a present reality. The Holy Spirit is present in our midst today. Where is the Holy Spirit? He is in the lives of those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. This wonderful promise is found in *John 14*

If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Indeed, May is a time of celebration and joy. Together we will continue to worship the Lord. Together we will share the joy of the blessing the Lord has given to each of us!

In Christ,
Doug

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Eileen Oskowski-----	2
Ray Pence-----	2
Tish Kauffman-----	2
Debi Fynes-----	2
Grant Dieter-----	5
Maelee Whiting-----	8
Rona Hilliard-----	8
Kim Runyan-----	9
Doris Spence-----	12
Diane Fulkman-----	15
Doug Wallace-----	16
Isabella DeVite-----	19
Ashley Shaffer-----	19
Brandy-Lyn Buxton-----	22
Nancy Templeton-----	24
Harvey Haines-----	24
Roy Komar-----	27
Natalie Bell-----	30
Jim Boyer-----	30
Charlotte Wallace-----	31



BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Michael Perine (the former Gretchen Haines) on the birth of a baby girl Jenna Rene born April 13th. Phil and Diane are the proud grandparents and Harvey and Dee Haines and Rachel Whiting are the proud great-grandparents.



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 Congratulations to Warren Black III and his wife Elizabeth on the birth of a son Brandon Nathaniel, born on April 3rd. Rosalie and the late Skip Black are the grandparents.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

The 113th Memorial Day Service will be held at the monument at the Y on Saturday, May 23rd. The parade will begin at the old elementary school and the service at 11:00A.M. This year the speaker will be Col. Grey Berrier, Garrison Commander at Ft. Indian Town Gap, Pa The New Bedford Presbyterian Church Choir will present special music and men and women who have ever served in the Armed Forces will be honored.. We will also honor our veterans at morning worship on Sunday, May 24th during the 10:30 A.M. service.



PRAYER VIGIL

This year another Prayer Vigil was held during Holy Week. The vigil has changed slightly over the the years, but the constant is that quiet one hour of time you spend at the church in the presence of Christ in prayer.

If you were one of the special ones who chose an hour (or two or three) during the vigil, you know what a special time this is to pray your prayers and the prayers of others during that time leading up to Easter.



There were some new names on the list and that is good. This is the 33rd year of this vigil, which equals the amount of time Christ spent on this earth. Many, many prayers have been lifted to God during those 33 years. Think how your life has changed in 33 years. I am so glad we are a church of prayers, and that we continue the tradition of the Prayer Vigil. But don't forget to make prayer a part of your daily life.

Until next year,

A loyal prayer vigil pray-er

DID YOU KNOW-----

- On Easter morning before I went into worship Bob Miller told me that 64 years ago on Easter morning that he was with the Marines that landed on Okinawa.
- Fifty seven women attended the Women's Retreat at the Castle in Franklin
- Ashley Fox gave her testimony at the sunrise service. and Wes Jones gave his testimony in song. (Great job both of you.)Also kudos to Geniene for the wonderful message.
- The Egg Hunt was held the Saturday before Easter with 117 kids and adults attending. Good feed back from the morning and also for the CD that was passed out with music from our church choir, Praise Team and some duets etc.
- Lillian was able to be at the shower for Julie and Christian.
- Debi's mom is home after spending the winter in Florida. Welcome home Dot.

WOMEN'S NEWS

CIRCLES

- The Elizabeth Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:00P.M.
- The Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 12th at 9:00A.M.
- The Rebekah Circle will meet on Monday, May 18th at 6:30P.M.
- The Lydia Circle will meet on Monday, May 18th at 7:30P.M.,

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MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

The Mother-Daughter Banquet will be held here at the church on May 14th. Dinner begins at 6:00P.M. and the program begins at 7:00P.M. The program is a chalk artist. Meat, rolls, and beverage will be furnished.. Please bring a dish according to your last name's initial.

Potato Dish-----A - D
Salad-----E - I
Vegetable Dish-----J - P
Dessert-----Q-Z

Please sign up after service on Sunday so we have an idea how many to prepare for. For more information call Gisela dieter at 964-3102.

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WOMEN'S RETREAT NEWS

Another Women's Retreat is in the books and we thank Shirley Janoski and Marty Marshall for all the hours of planning and preparation they put into our "Loving Well" retreat to make it such a success. Thank you to anyone who had part in making our time together as sister's in Christ at the Castle in Franklin such a joy. Our time together was centered on God as we used a Beth Moore Bible Study to learn, to laugh and personally reflect on how we daily view people in our life. Instead of our annual silent auction, this year we were given Seed Packets that we filled based on some of the comforts and blessings we have in our life that others do not. We must be a VERY blessed group because we raised \$627.45 in our seed packets. This money was split with part going to the Castle so that they can continue their ministry to provide a place for groups to meet in a Christian atmosphere. The money given to the Castle was given in honor of Lillian Fulkman as the original inspiration for our first Women's Retreat and providing leadership and always being a vital part of our Women's Retreats. We missed you Lillian! The other part of the money raised went to help

fund the Royal Family Kids's Camp. This is a camp for battered, abused and neglected children. These children are all from Lawrence County and probably would never have the opportunity to attend a camp without this special program. The primary mission of the camp is to provide the children with positive memories in a Christian environment. If you would like to learn more about the camp you may visit their web site at www.rfkc.org

Just some parting thoughts from the retreat.

- JOY TESTY FOE FAR
- We had ten new 1st time attenders at the retreat this year. We are glad you came Maggie, Addie, Tiffany, Michelle, Terri, Carole, Laura, Hillary, MaryAnn, and Sandy. We hope you will come back next year.

*Jane Clingan was back with us and at 87 years young was able to hold her breath the longest in our game.

*The Bell/Heaney's had the largest contingency at the retreat--Way to go, and the Bells headed up the craft time where we all created beautiful bracelets with crystals representing Christ in our life. Thank you for your patience!

*Sandy, how fast did you say you drove a car? And to think your son is a police officer?????

*Helen (B) that was some face you made--no wonder you won!

*Isn't it amazing that a non-choir member could hold a musical note the longest. Go Gisela

*Darlene, you amazed us all that not only could you do a split, but you did it in blue jeans!!!

*Patty you sure did have much that could be done with a simple apron.

Thanks to those who came up with the games. They were a HOOT!!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is always held the first Thursday in May. This year it is on May 7th. We will be doing it a little different this year. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the vestibule.

We would like for folks to sign up for half hours of prayer or hours of prayer that you may do at home. We hope to have 24 hours filled up with folks who will be praying for our nation. If you would rather come to the church to pray, the church will be open from 9:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

Beth Moore is the Honorary Chairman of National Day of Prayer this year.

Lori Jones, Toni Reynolds and Pat Mentzer are the on the committee for our church.



GRADUATING SENIORS

If you know of seniors graduating from high school, college or trade school, please let us know in the church office. High School seniors will be honored at worship service on June 7th. Light refreshments will follow. Also we will recognize college students that same day.



BAZAAR NEWS



Men and women it is not too early to be working on projects for the church bazaar which will be held the first Saturday in November. Do you do wood working; sewing;

crafting; crocheting; gardening; canning---we would be very appreciative if you would be willing to be working on something for us. If you have questions you can see the Bazaar chairmen, Lori Smith Debi Fynes or June Smith

SYMPATHY

Our congregation extends sincere sympathy to Jim and Dot Rishel at the death of her brother, James "Scottie" Scott this past week.

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

- Justin Dillon-----Home
- Katharine Bell-----Overlook
- Verda Hepler-----Home
- Nancy Templeton-----Overlook
- Mrs. Bernice Chrobak-----Edison Manor
- Harvey & Dee Haines-----Home at Harvey Jr.
- Gertie Bretz-----Home
- Shirley Cramer-----Home
- Chuck Ruby-----Avalon Nursing Home
- Teresa Debelyak-----Home
- Jo Ruby-----Home
- Lillian Fulkman-----Home at Nancy's
- Charlotte Wallace-----Home
- Jim Boyer-----Home
- Bill Miller-----Home (Gay Ann's husband)
- Henry Reed-----Home
- Tracy Duffy-----Recuperating at home
- Ray Janoski-----Recuperating at home

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Doug will be having a new member class in the coming weeks. If you are interested in becoming a member of the church or just want more information, please let him know.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS EXPO

Next Saturday, May 9th there will be a "Community Business Expo" at the Pulaski Township Park. The time is 9:00A.M. - 2:00P.M. Our church will be setting up a table and passing out information about our church and its activities. The youth will be selling something as a fundraiser. If any committee has fliers or anything else they would like to submit, please let Geniene know. Also if anyone is available to sit the table for an hour, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let Geniene know as soon as possible so a schedule can be determined.

THANK YOU

- *To youth kids for filling and scattering eggs for the egg hunt
- *Thanks to the Administration Committee and others for cleaning the church yard
- *Thanks to the janitor for the extra work during Holy Week and Easter.
- *Thanks to the choir for all the beautiful music during Holy Week and the Easter Season

YOUTH NEWS

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! As we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we look back at the busy month our youth had preparing for our Easter events. Our Children's Choir sang during worship on Palm Sunday. I would like to thank each one of you for blessing us with your musical talents throughout this past year. We look forward to hearing you again in October when KidsZone resumes. On Good Friday, our youth stuffed eggs for the hunt on Saturday. We then watched "The Passion of the Christ" after the evening service. I pray that this touched each one of you and will help you see what Christ endured for each of us. The next day was the Easter Egg Hunt. What a ministry to our community! We had over 150 families present. The youth helped hide the eggs and we had a Soup/Bake Sale during the hunt where we made \$450.00 in a few short hours! Thank you to Julie Whiting who recruited people to make our "goods" and to all those who helped out (including those who donated soup and baked goods). This money will be used to help replenish our Seneca Hills winter retreat monies. On Easter morning, our youth held the Sunrise Service. I have heard so many wonderful things about our youth and I am so proud of each one of you! All of the kids that participated were very eager to do their part. Seniors Ashley Fox gave an amazing testimony of her faith and Wesley Jones did an outstanding job of singing "You are My All in All". It was such a joy to see you both stand up and profess your faith. I would also like to thank our drama team for their witness in the service with the 2 dramas. Again, I just can't tell you how many compliments you have all received. Your ministry to our church touched many! I thank you and I thank God for your commitment to Him!

Upcoming Events:

Pie delivery is Wednesday, May 20th from 3:30-6:30. Please be sure to pick up your pies on this date due to storage issues. Thank you to all who ordered.



Saturday, May 9th, there will be a "Community Business Expo" at the Pulaski Township Park in New Bedford. The time is from 9AM-2PM. Our

church will be setting up a table and passing out information about our church and its activities. The youth will also be selling something as a fundraiser. If any committee has fliers or anything else they would like to submit, please let Geniene know. Also, if anyone is available to sit at the table for an hour, it would be greatly appreciated. Please see Geniene as soon as possible so a schedule can be determined.



Vacation Bible School this year is scheduled for June 15-19 in the morning hours. Please let Geniene know if you would like to be Director or Co-Director! (I print this with a smile on my face but really could use some help!)

Geniene will be the camp nurse at Seneca Hills for part of the junior camp which begins June 22. This is for ages 9-11. I would love to have our church represented with all our kids in this age group.



Also, Seneca has camps for all ages. See Geniene or Doug if you are interested. Remember, our church scholarships a portion of the cost for our kids to go to summer camp!

We will not have youth group on Mother's Day. Please spend your day honoring your mother's and thanking God for these special women in your lives. Keep in mind that your mom's always love you EVEN on those "few, rare days" that it may not be deserved!



