Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church

I want to share with you an article I just read in the Decision magazine. It is written by Franklin Graham and is entitled "The Light Shines in the Darkness." Allow me to begin with quotes from the story.

Every day it seems like yet another menacing cloud has spread its dark shadow across the land.

The restless reporting of wide-spread sexual harassment has dominated the news cycle for months.

Online pornography use is at an all time high. Gay and transgender characters are now a common sight on television, even in programs for small children. Atheists are hell-bent on eradicating any mention of God in town halls, schools and sporting events. Drug addiction, especially to new opioid painkillers, is epidemic.

Mass shootings are no longer a rare occurrence, and they happen in once sacred places like churches and historically safe places like schools and public venues. The weapons of terror are no longer just homemade bombs but also cars and trucks.

Christians across the Middle East suffer from intense persecution from Islamic terrorists and oppressive governments. Some think we are on the verge of nuclear war as North Korea continues to ratchet up the very real threat of an atomic conflict. ....

The Bible is clear that moral and spiritual darkness has always been the case for a world that rejects and refuses to acknowledge God. Describing a godless culture that hates God, the Apostle Paul said "they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1: 12).

What I believe is happening today that I certainly haven't seen in my lifetime is the incredibly swift spread of darkness across virtually every sector of our culture. The Judeo-Christian world view that once was predominate has seen serious erosion. The forces of evil are working on every front to undermine and destroy the foundations of moral healthy society–respect for authority, the sacredness of marriage union between a man and a woman, the sanctity of life for the unborn, and our freedom to take and stand for values that we know are right.

The Bible is clear that such moral chaos comes because people reject the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. "And this is the judgement: the light has come into the world, and the people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come into the light" (John 3: 19-20)"....

Let me move to the end of the article where Graham gives the good news and this challenge to all Christians for this upcoming year.

And we know that however great and wide the spread of darkness over the world may be, it can never extinguish the True Light. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1: 5).

It is our responsibility as believers to let our light shine before men, and to honor and glorify God by our good works and godly life, regardless of how evil the culture has become. The Bible calls us to be "blameless and innocent, children of God, without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2: 15).

As we read the words of Graham I believe we see the truth of his thoughts... not just in the world "out there" but in the world that surrounds us. Our children and grandchildren are growing up in this new non-Christian (even anti-Christian) society. We must be lights in the world in which we live...our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our neighborhoods..... even when the world does not want to see the light. This is our challenge as we face a new year. It can only be done by the power of the Holy Spirit, by the support of brothers and sisters in Christ, by keeping our eyes on Jesus in His word and in worship and by growing in our own faith.

In Christ,
Doug

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING

- **Approved the election of officers from the congregational meeting. New elders will be Diane Bell, Jim Emery and Brad Marshall (one year term). New Deacons will be Terri Emery, Jane Eppinger, Beth Kendall, and Darlene Robison. Serving on next years nominating committee will be Mary Beckman, Collin Fulkman and Doug Houk.**
- **Received and reviewed the November financial statement.**
- **Accepted the bid from A & L Lawn Care for the snow plowing for the parking lot.**
- **After research and presentation from the Administration Committee, approved spending up to $25,000.00 for the purchase of a van. After the meeting a 15 passenger van was purchased. It is a 2016 Ford Transit Van with 41000 miles. The final cost was $25,000.00. It has 3 years left on the warranty.**
- **Approved adding $1000.00 to the 2018 budget for van gas and maintenance and $900.00 to the budget for van insurance. Also, as recommended by our insurance agent, we have increased our liability coverage for the church.**
- **Received a report from the Christian Ed. Committee on Sunday School, Youth Ministry and Children's Ministry.**
- **Approved the 2018 Mission Budget (It will be in the 2017 Annual Report). Added a gift for Josh and Kathryn Himes in their ministry with Cru (formerly Campus Crusade) as they share the gospel of Christ at Penn State.**
- **Received a report from the individuals going on the Mission Trip Details are being finalized.**
- **Approved the Christmas offering to be used by the Haiti Mission Team for costs related to the trip such as shipping costs, ministry costs, building costs and other costs.**
- **Personnel gave a very positive report following the review of church staff.**

There will be a joint meeting of all Elders and Deacons beginning at 8:30 on January 13th. This will be a time of training, discussion and planning for the new year.

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Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Nancy Templeton----------Overlook Medical Clinic
Dot Jones----------Avalon Nursing Home
Marie Snyder----------Home
Gladys Barnhart----------Home
Jo Ruby----------Home
Pearl Reed----------Overlook Nursing Home
Carl Black----------Clen-Moore Place (Greer House)
Shirley Tremba----------Home





Praising God that Len is feeling wonderful, no pain at all!!!!
We have an amazing church family here at New Bedford. We just want to thank everyone for your prayers, calls and visits. It's been a long summer and fall. We were blessed and humbled by an anonymous envelope that came in the mail. God always provides, we just have to trust!!

Thank You
Len & Diana Halt

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! To everyone that generously bought for this years Angel Tree!! We are thankful that we were able to help so many families in the Mohawk and Wilmington Area School Districts.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with Breakfast in Bethlehem this year. It would not be possible without EVERYONE!! **The Marshall's**

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The 2018 Offering Envelopes are ready and on a table by the office. If you cannot find your box or have any questions, please talk to Bonnie. Thank You!

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IMPORTANT - Annual Reports: All committee and board secretaries or chairmen should start thinking about getting their Annual Reports ready to be turned in. ALL REPORTS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 to be included in the 2017 Annual Report. There is a folder on my desk or you can email your reports to me at newbedfordchurch@verizon.net or addietwinstrips@gmail.com Thank You!! Addie

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OFFICER TRAINING 2018 ~ On Saturday, January 13th from 8:30AM until NOON. All Officers, Elders and Deacons, returning and new, are encouraged to attend this training. This training is required by our Book of Order and is also a great time of fellowship and for making goals for the upcoming year.



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2018 Church Committees are currently being formed. If anyone is interested in volunteering to be on a committee, please contact Pastor Doug.

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On Sunday, January 28th there will be a Congregational Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for receiving the Annual Report. This meeting will be during the Sunday School hour in between Church Services.



Birthdays in January

1/01 – Jakki Gardner
1/03 – Bud Freeman
1/04 – Corigan Quinn
1/05 – Lois Adams
1/05 – Philip Book
1/05 – Ashley Fox
1/05 – Shirley Janoski
1/06 – Nancy Bretz
1/06 – Joel Phillips
1/09 – Brenda Miller
1/11 – Marshall Whiting
1/12 – Linda Feil
1/12 – Diane McConnell
1/14 – Gary Geisinger
1/14 – Allen Jones
1/17 – Terri Quinn
1/19 – Rosie Moore
1/19 – Willie Moore
1/20 – Mikayln Duffy
1/20 – Amanda Miller
1/24 – Lori Smith
1/26 – Michael Duffy
1/26 – Mackenzie McCarthy
1/26 – Julie Whiting
1/27 – Joyce Goist
1/27 – Morgan Whiting
1/28 – Taylor Allison

Birthdays in February

2/02 – Paul Cummings
2/02 – Nancy Phillis
2/03 – Megan Allison
2/03 – Dawn Harris
2/03 – Bobbie Morehead
2/04 – Harry Cornman
2/04 – Shirley Freeman
2/04 – Alexandra Lambert
2/04 – Austin Whiting
2/05 – Pam Liddell
2/07 – Marti Marshall
2/07 – Martha Miller
2/07 – Nancy Rudzik
2/08 – Len Halt
2/08 – Laura Harshbarger
2/09 – Barbara Sander
2/15 – Sis Hartzell
2/15 – Shirley Snyder
2/22 – Lisa Magee
2/22 – Amanda Quinn
2/26 – Donald Pence
2/27 – Don Craig



January Greeters

1/7 – Pete Carlisle

1/14 – Bill & Laura Harshbarger

1/21 – Carol Madden

1/28 – Bud & Shirley Freeman

MISSION TRIP

We are less than a month away from the Mission Team traveling to Haiti. Please include the individuals going on the trip in your daily Prayers. They are Doug Runyan, Brad Marshall, Marti Marshall, Adam Marshall, Geniene Jones, Alexis Jones, Sam Jones and Marry Morris.

The Marshalls will be leaving about January 21st and driving to Miami with a trailer (donated by Miracle Mountain) full of supplies. They will place these supplies on a cargo ship traveling to Haiti. They will then fly to Haiti and join Autumn for a week of ministry. The rest of the team will leave on February 2nd. Each will be taking 2 full suitcases of supplies and a wheel chair for the children that Autumn ministers to. We will spend the first night in an orphanage in Port of Prince. The next day we will fly to Port au Pei (in north-western Haiti) and after a short bus or van trip. join Autumn and the Marshalls. A number of hands on ministries are planned working with the kids at Northwest orphanage and the special needs kids in the Miriam Center and in the Outreach ministry. We will also be remodeling a house Autumn uses to house her therapy staff.

On Wednesday we will again board the 5 passenger or the 9 passenger airplane and travel to Cap Haitian located in north eastern Haiti. We will meet Matt and Stacey and minister in the churches that the students at the Bible School lead. The team will fly out of Haiti on the 11th of February.

Again, beginning now and continuing to the end of the trip please keep these men and women in your prayers. Also, about $2,000 additional dollars is needed to fund this trip. If you would like to make a donation clearly mark on your check or envelope, the purpose of the gift and place it in the offering plate.

Haiti Supply Collection

I am excited to share that for the first time ever I will have unlimited space for collected items to take to Haiti. As you know a small group from the church is coming down for 2 weeks in February. They will each be able to carry 2 suitcases of supplies (16 total!). My parents are driving down to Miami to put supplies on a boat. Below are the items needed. There will be a black tub at the church for you to place donation items in. Thank you for your support and generosity!! ***Autumn***

Items needed for Miriam Center

*new backpacks
*towels
*lotion
*bar soap
*medial gloves (all sizes)
*peanut butter
*baby wipes
*pedialite (powder)
*ensure (powder or liquid)
*protein powder
*children's vitamins
*fungal cream
*crib sheets
*baby powder
*toothpaste
*boys & girls deodorant
*Children's liquid Tylenol
*garbage bags – 13 gallon
*pediasure (powder)
*baby formula
*toddler formula
*melatonin
*triple antibiotic cream
*boys new or gently used shorts 5T to Adult Small
*boys t-shirts new or gently used 5T to Adult Small
*girls dresses Girls Small to Adult Small
*regular sheet sets (mainly fitted sheets but packages with both will work)

Therapy Items Needed

*medical gloves
*hand sanitizer
*Clorox wipes
*icy hot cream
*pvc pipe cutters
*pvc glue
*colored ductape
*patterned ductape
*2" caster wheels (sets of 4 matching)
*various size screws & bolts for building projects
*cause & effect light up music toys
*calcium vitamins (for Rickets Vitamin Prog.)
*vitamin D3 pills – 1,000mg (Rickets Vit. Prog.)
*gently used and new shoes – (Toddler & Children sizes that can fit therapy braces in)

Women's Association

New Bedford EPC is blessed to have such a strong Woman's Association which is very supportive of the ministry of this congregation. However, the backbone of this association is the love of Christ working through these women. I have found much blessing in the individual relationships that I have been privileged to develop further throughout 2017.

Jesus calls us to be in relationship with him and with each other. I believe he places people in our lives at just the right moment. In those moments we find laughter, healing, encouragement, and so many other things. The women of this association reflect the love of Christ to each other and the world around them. What a blessing that is!

I would like to encourage all the women of this congregation to get involved in the Woman's Association this year. There are plenty of places you can plug in.

- **Several circles are available where you can engage with other women and study God's Word. Regardless of whether you are new to studying the Bible or are a seasoned veteran, there is a place for you.**
- **The annual retreat in Franklin, PA is a great place to get to know many of the women in this congregation. A relaxed atmosphere, time for spiritual nurturing and growth, and time for relationship building.**
- **The Ladies, Love and Laughter Breakfast is always a great time to get to know other women, laugh a lot (which by the way is very good for you!) and to enjoy the cooking of our men.**
- **The fall Bazaar is an annual event that helps to fund the Woman's Association but more importantly is the primary source of income for our mission giving. It takes many hours and hands to pull it off every year yet every year we are blessed by the volunteers that come out to make it a success. There are lots of places to use your gifts and talents here!**

Our events and programs are great but our greatest blessings are found in our relationships with each other. Come be a part of the Woman's Association. You will find a place of great support and love!

Just a reminder, the next business meeting of the Women's Association will be January 13, 2018 at 9:00 am at the church. These meetings are open for all women of the church. Come and see what we are all about. I hope to see you there!

In His Service,

Judy Riethmiller

January Circle Meetings

Deborah ~ **Tuesday, January 9 at 9:30AM (Jane Eppinger – Chair)**

Ruth ~ **Monday, January 15 at 9:30AM (Nancy Cummings – Chair)**

Lydia ~ **Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00PM (Shirley Goist – Chair)**

Elizabeth ~ **Thursday, January 18 at 6:30PM (G. Jones/A. Geisinger – Chairs)**

Rebecca ~ **Saturday, January 20 at 9AM @ Bedford Trails Rest. (Lori Smith – Chair)**



NEW AT NBEPC!!!

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
January 2018-March 2018 Schedule
All Meetings 9:30-11:00 A.M.

January 9 **Why Worry**

Discover what is at the root of your worry, name the things that cause stress, and invite others to come alongside you. Don't allow worry to paralyze you and keep you from enjoying life!

January 23 **Coloring Books and Hot Cocoa Bar**

February 6 **20 Seconds of Insane Courage**

Discuss how to courageously take ownership of your entire story and speak, act, and live in freedom.

February 20 **Mosaic Picture Frames**

March 6 **Coming Clean**

Think about the things that disrupt your attachment to Jesus. Freedom begins When we get to the root of our pain and detachment and start coming clean.

March 20 **Painted Wood Blocks**

HELP NEEDED!

In order to provide this ministry to mothers of preschoolers in our area, we are in need of volunteers to help with childcare during the meetings. A curriculum and activities will be provided for children 2+ while younger children can enjoy free play and a snack in the nursery. You do NOT have to work every meeting, but any and all assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Copies of the full 2017-2018 MOPS Schedule can be picked up in the church entryway

Please contact Erika Taylor for more information at 724-674-1840 or emtaylor1978@aol.com.











New Bedford Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Awana Clubs-----Wednesdays
Age 2 - Grades 6 5:00-7:00

AWANA MISSIONS supports the following 2 missions……

1) The CITY RESCUE MISSION

Needed Items:

Jelly	Cereal	Canned Fruit	Syrup
Boxed Rice	Pancake Mix	Crackers	Mac n Cheese

2) Autumn Marshall and the HAITI Supplies—items due by Jan. 10th

Needed Items:

New Backpacks	Crib Sheets	Fitted Sheets	Towels	Baby Powder	Lotion
Medical Gloves	Garbage Bags	Baby Wipes	Peanut Butter	Bar Soap	Toothpaste
Baby Formula	Protein Powder	Child's Vitamin	Fungal Cream	Melatonin	Duct Tape
Icy/Hot Cream	Clorox Wipes	Hand Sanitizer	Powder: Pediasure, Pedialite, & Ensure		

New/Gently Used: Boy's Shorts & T-Shirts--size 5T-Adult Small & Girl's dresses size Small-Adult Small

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of items!

Coach Lee has made a challenge that if the goal is met he'll provide a pizza party!!

AWANA Schedule for January

January 10th – Double, Double Point Night

Clubbers will get double the points for attendance, bringing their Bible and Handbook, and completing sections.

January 17th – Regular Club Night

January 24th – Let Your Light Shine for Jesus Night

January 31st — Regular Club Night

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR AWANA PARENTS: **The doors will open at 4:55 for children to arrive at Awana. There is no leader supervision before this time for the children.**

Awana has 44 kids registered from ages 2 to grade 6. I am still in need of listeners from 6:10-6:40. If you are available during that time to come and listen to Clubbers recite memory verses, please contact Dawn.

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Children At Worship Leaders for January If you are able to help with this ministry please see Dawn-

7-Dawn Harris
14-
21-
28-

Needed Sunday School Teacher: A teacher is needed for the 5 & 6 Grade Sunday School class. Contact Dawn if you are willing to serve in this ministry.

Parenting Bible Study
beginning in January 21st at 9:30 AM

Lee Harris will lead the Dr. Tony Evans video series Raising Kingdom Kids. This study will challenge and equip parents to fully understand their position under God, helping them fulfill their role in parenting the children God has given them. There are 6 sessions: This Isn't the Magic Kingdom, "But Daniel...", Transfer the Kingdom Baton, Cultivating a Kingdom Atmosphere, Set a High Standard, and Raising Royal Kids

Please sign up in the vestibule so participant guides can be ordered.
If you have any questions please contact Lee at 330-881-8114.



Please recycle the fronts of your Christmas cards by donating them to the Children's Ministry. A collection box is in the vestibule. Thank you

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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

Happy New Year to you all! I am so excited to see what new blessings God has in store for our youth and young adults this 2018 year. One new blessing is that we (finally) have a van!!!! Thank you to those who were on the search committee, and those session members who helped me decide which van to choose. It's already gotten some use when we went to Cascade!

This month is busy, busy, busy. I'm recharged from Christmas break and ready to go! January 6th at 10 am is the parent meeting about events this Spring. Please make it a priority to be there, as we're discussing the winter retreat coming up next month! Speaking of the retreat, the payment deadline to secure your spot is Sunday, January 14th. $99 is due that night in order for you to attend the retreat. The first afO meeting of the year is Sunday, January 7th; Jr High meets 4-6 pm and Sr High meets 7-9 pm. Senior High breakfast club at Ryders begins on Friday, January 5th at 6:30 am, and Junior High breakfast club begins on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 am. If you need a ride to Ryders, or if you need a ride from Ryders to school, let Jocilyn know prior to that day please ☺ January 9th is also Skate Night at the Olympic Fun Center from 5:30-7:30pm! Meet at the fun center for a fun night out! Admission is $10, which includes unlimited skating, rock wall climbing, and laser tag. Pizza and pop will be bought by the church at the fun center's concession and provided as dinner. Lastly, no afO on Sunday, January 28th; we will be attending the LCYM Dodgeball tournament instead! Meet at the Sankey Center from 5-8:30 pm ready to duck and dive and dodge! Teams must be made up of 6 players. Even if you don't want to participate on a team, come join me in cheering on the teams!

The young adults will kick off the new year with beginning bible study every Thursday, starting January 4th at 6 pm. Over the next 6 weeks, we're taking a look at the life of Josiah, and how God used him to carry out His plans. There will be buffalo chicken dip and Jesus: what could be better?? At 6 pm on January 22nd, make sure you come out to Jocilyn's house for game night! We'll have boys versus girls charades, pizza, pop, and more! Bring a game and bring a friend!

JANUARY 2018 AT NEW BEDFORD E.P.C.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!	6:30 Worship Team Pract	5pm AWANA Leader Dinner & Meeting 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bell Choir Practice	6:30 C.E. Cmte. Mtg. 6:30 Evangel. Cmte. Mtg.	3-4:15pm Greater Pgh. Food Bank Distribution	
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
8:30 Contemporary Serv. 9:30 Sunday School 10:40 Traditional Serv. 4-6pm Jr. High Youth Gr. 7-9pm Sr. High Youth Gr.	7pm Admin. Cmte. Mtg. 7pm Mission Cmte. Mtg.	9:30-11 MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) 9:30 Deborah Circle Mtg. 6:30 Worship Team Pract.	5-7 AWANA for all ages 2-6th grade 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bell Choir Practice 7:30 Evening Bible Study	6:30 Worship Cmte. Mtg.		8am Men's Ministry @ Riethmiller's Shop 8:30-12 Officer Training 9am Womens Assc. Mtg.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30 Contemporary Serv. 9:30 Sunday School 10:40 Traditional Serv. 4-6pm Jr. High Yough Gr. 7-9pm Sr. High Youth Gr.	9:30 Ruth Circle Meeting	1pm Lydia Circle Meeting 6:30 Worship Team Pract	5-7 AWANA for all ages 2-6th grade 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bell Choir Practice 7:30 Evening Bible Study	6:30 Elizabeth Circle Mtg.		9am Rebecca Circle Mtg. @ Bedford Trails Rest.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 Contemporary Serv. 9:30 Sunday School 10:40 Traditional Serv. 4-6pm Jr. High Yough Gr. 7-9pm Sr. High Youth Gr.	7pm Deacons Meeting	9:30-11 MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) 6:30 Worship Team Pract.	5-7 AWANA for all ages 2-6th grade 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bell Choir Practice 7:30 Evening Bible Study	7pm Session Meeting		
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
8:30 Contemporary Serv. 9:30 Sunday School 10:40 Traditional Serv. 4-6pm Jr. High Youth Gr. 7-9pm Sr. High Youth Gr.		6:30 Worship Team Pract	5-7 AWANA for all ages 2-6th grade 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bell Choir Practice 7:30 Evening Bible Study			

NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
151 Woodland Drive
Pulaski, PA 16143
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New Castle, PA 16101



Redeeming Times Newsletter
JANUARY 2018

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordchurch@verizon.net



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:40a.m. – Traditional Worship Service