Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

Have you noticed that there are an unbelievable number of special Christmas movies on T.V. this year? It seems that every evening there are five or six shows on. Some of them have a "Santa Clause" theme. Many of them have a "surprise" romance theme. Others have a "save small town" theme. Let me say I enjoy watching some of these shows. They are often cute. They often, after a close call with disaster, have a positive message (good overcomes evil.... love always prevails... families live happily ever after.... Santa is affirmed... the "spirit of Christmas" wins in the end). They all have a "happy ever after" ending (no one wants to watch a "miserable ever after" Christmas movie). These movies are not new. Who doesn't like "It's a Wonderful Life"? The angel gets his wings and George is saved. But now there seems to be thousands of these movies.

I am not saying there is any problem with these movies. They are better than most other options for watching T.V. The problem only arises when they become substitutes for the true Christmas Story. Here this story from Luke 2: 8ff

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

This is a story that is almost never heard on T.V. (With the notable exception of the Charlie Brown Christmas movie). This is the story we need to remember. This is the story that we need to teach our children. We must be careful that the "positive messages" of Christmas T.V. shows do not drown out the story of Christ and His birth.

One final practical thought. The Runyan family have had a tradition since our children were babies. They now follow the same tradition with their children. It is simply this: Before one present is opened on Christmas morning, the birth of Jesus story is read from the Bible. Luke 2:1-40 is always read. We then have a brief family prayer thanking God for the birth of Jesus. This only takes a couple of minutes.... but it is a reminder that Christmas is not primarily about receiving presents... or the "Christmas spirit" it is primarily about the birth of Christ.

The Runyan Family would like to wish each and every one of you a very merry Christmas.

In Him
Doug

NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **received the end of October Financial report.**
- **received report on remodeling of Manse Bathrooms. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving the remodel was completed.**
- **approved the 2017 Budget. Was sent to the congregation to be received**
- **approved a bid for snow plowing**
- **heard report of beginning of new Young Adult Bible study. This is being organized and led by Jocilyn Houk**
- **there is still no progress on search for full time Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministries.**
- **approved staff Christmas bonus and staff Christmas dinner**
- **next Session Meeting will be December 15th**

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating committee would like to thank our new officers

Elders
Glenda Fulkman
Bob Bell
Lee Harris

Deacons
Diana Halt
Amy Geisinger
Cindy Bell
Evelyn Exley (re-elected for a sec0nd term)

2018 Nominating Committee
Doug Houk
Christian Fulkman
Mary Beckman
(one Elder and one Deacon will be added)

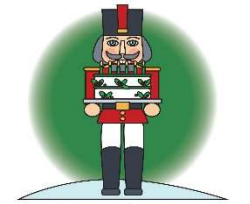
Thank you to the Nominating Committee for there hard work.

NBEPC Children's Christmas Play

What does Christmas stand for? What does it all mean?

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season to come and peer through The Christmas Window.

Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 4:00



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Adam Marshall.....01
Diana Halt.....02
Alexis Lambert.....04
Betty Komar.....05
Kyle Jones.....07
Chuck Bell.....09
Bob Bell.....09
Alexis Jones.....09
Bob Miller.....10
Caroletta Doverspike.....11
Katee Paglia.....13
Evelyn Exley.....14
Jo Ruby.....14
Wanda Boyles.....16
Angela Houk.....17
Addie Moore.....17
Rebecca Halt.....19
Eric Keller.....20
Ruth Hunt.....21
LaVon Rogers.....21
Florence Allison.....24
Darlene Robison.....28
Christa Matthews.....29



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jakki Gardner.....01
Bud Freeman.....03
Corigan Quinn.....04
Lois Adams.....05
Phillip Book.....05
Ashley Fox.....05
Shirley Janoski.....05
Nancy Bretz.....06
Joel (Swiger) Phillips.....06
Brenda Miller.....09
Bob Slagle.....10
Marshall Whiting.....11
Linda Feil.....12
Diane McConnell.....12
Gary Geisinger.....14
Allen Jones.....14
Terri Quinn.....17
Rosie Moore.....19
Willie Moore.....19
Mikayln Duffy.....20
Amanda Miller.....20
Lori Smith.....24
Michael Duffy.....26
Mackenzie McCarthy.....26
Julie Whiting.....26
Joyce Goist.....27
Morgan Whiting.....27
Taylor Allison.....28

DECEMBER GREETERS

December 4 ~ Shirley Snyder

December 11 ~ Carrie Kaufman

December 18 ~ GayAnn Miller

December 24 ~ Billyray & Addie Moore

December 25 ~

WELCOME CENTER

We are looking for volunteers to be in our Welcome Center before and after each worship service on Sunday's. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact the church office. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS YARD SIGNS

Thank you to all who took a Christmas sign for your yard. Please return the signs to the church once Christmas is over so that we may use these signs again next year.

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
Henry and Pearl Reed----------Overlook Nursing Home
Don Jones----------Avalon Nursing Home-Rehab
Carl Black----------Clen-Moore Place (Greer House)



WOMEN'S NEWS

December Circle Meetings

Deborah Circle ~ meeting on Tuesday, December 13th at 9:30A.M.

Elizabeth Circle ~ meeting on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30P.M.

Ruth Circle ~ meeting for lunch at Tuscany Square in New Castle on Monday, December 19th at 11:30A.M.

Lydia Circle ~ meeting on Tuesday, December 20th at 1:00P.M.

Rebecca Circle ~ NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!



To My Church Family,
Much gratitude for the prayers, sympathy, and food during our time of sorrow and loss at the passing of my husband and father. Words cannot express how grateful we are to all of you. Special thanks to the Deacons for the wonderful food prepared after the funeral.
Much Thanks ~ The Robison family

Thank you to everyone that helped out with this years Bazaar! It takes everyone in order to make it a success!! We could not do it without all of your help and support!
2016 Bazaar Committee ~ Nancy Bretz, Cindy Bell & Beth Kendall

Thank you all for the prayers, cards and good thoughts during my recent illness and recovery. It has all been so much appreciated and so very helpful during my recovery!
Thank You ~ Judy Stuhlmann

Thank you for all the loving thoughts, cards, and most of all your prayers during the passing of our loved one. -Mary Miller Family ♥

Our family would like to thank everyone for the cards and well wishes that were given to my mom, Violet Hilliard for her 100th birthday. A special thanks to Pastor Doug for stopping by to visit and wishing her a Happy Birthday.
-Connie Shick & family

A very special thank you to the ladies (Nancy Bretz, Lisa Craig, Retta Dutton, Sis Hartzell, Elaine Hepler, Carrie Kauffman, and Martha Miller) who made the tree skirts. There are two under the altar trees and one under the tree in the fellowship hall. Please thank the ladies for doing such a wonderful job. -Helen Ruby



The congregation is invited to a Cake & Ice Cream reception celebrating Glenn Hepler's 100th Birthday. The reception will be held immediately after the Traditional Worship Service on Sunday, December 18th.
Thank You - The Books & Heplers



The Deacon's are once again taking orders for Poinsettia's. The cost is $8 this year. There will be cards in your bulletins over the next several weeks.

The Deacon's are collecting non-perishable food items for their Christmas food boxes. There will be a box in the narthex for your donations. Thank you!

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITES

CHRISTMAS DINNER ~ The youth Christmas dinner is December 22nd from 6 pm to 8 pm... if you think about it during your busy shopping sprees, the kids need prize presents for our dice gift exchange game! You don't have to spend any money on these presents; they can be things around your house the kids might like! (Nail polish, unused mugs, books, etc) They don't need to be wrapped, either! Thank you in advance everyone 😊



New Bedford Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Awana Clubs-----Wednesdays
Preschool- Grades 6 5:15-7:00

AWANA MISSION UPDATE Awana Clubbers collected items for the Thanksgiving Baskets that get distributed during the holiday to families in need. Thank you for the generous donation of food…..we collected 122 items for the City Rescue Mission.

Thank you for helping to provide this ministry with food for families in need.

Awana CAN make a difference for the CITY RESCUE MISSION

For the remainder of the year we will continue to collect food for **The New Castle City Rescue Mission**. It is a Christian ministry providing spiritual and physical care to the hurting, hunger and homeless of our community. Visit www.cityrescuemission.org for more information. Awana Clubs are collecting can goods/non-perishable food for the Family Care Ministry at the City Rescue Mission.

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of food!

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

Needed Items: Jelly, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Boxed Rice, Pancake Mix, Crackers, Syrup, and Mac n Cheese. Any of the above items can be donated at anytime. However, there is a 'Most Wanted Item of the Month'.

MOST WANTED ITEM FOR DECEMBER-CANNED SOUP

December 7th – Double Point Night

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

December 14th - Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Clubbers can wear Christmas colors, red & green, as we celebrate the true meaning of Chrsitmas.

December 21st & 28th — NO AWANA – Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Awana will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2017

***Remember if Wilmington school is cancelled because of weather then Awana will not meet in the evening.

Thank you Collin & Mollie Fulkman for teaching Grades 3 & 4 Sunday School. We are thankful for faithfully serving in this ministry.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:26

Urgent Need: The children's Sunday School year is being taught by quarters. The following openings need to be filled: Grades 3 & 4, Grades 5 & 6. The next quarter will begin March 4th. Please be in prayer for this ministry. A Preschool/Kindergarten teacher is needed for January & February. If you have any questions please contact Dawn.

Please save empty wrapping paper rolls. They can be dropped off at Dawn's office.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM ~ THIS SATURDAY, December 10th 8:30A.M. ~ 11:30A.M. (Breakfast will be served until 10:00A.M.). Please invite your friends, family and neighbors. It is FUN for children and adults of all ages!! If you have never come, please try to come this year, You won't regret it! The church is transformed into the streets of Bethlehem. There are live animals for petting, a Christmas movie, two craft rooms, face painting, and much, much more!!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM/DINNER ~ THIS SUNDAY, December 11th. The program will begin at 4:00P.M. with dinner following. The Worship Committee will be providing the ham, turkey, green beans, roasted potatoes, bread and beverages. If you are able, please bring a side to share according to your last name;
A-F = SALAD, G-P = HOT DISH, Q-Z = DESSERT

ANGEL TREE ~ We have added some angels to our Angel Tree in the Narthex. These angels are for people that have called the church asking for help with Christmas gifts. Terri has already delivered the 34 gifts that were purchased for Wilmington and Mohawk schools – THANK YOU SO MUCH!! If you have not yet had a chance to get an Angel, please take one now, please try to have the wrapped gifts brought back to the church next Sunday, December 18th so that we can get the gifts distributed to the families before Christmas. Thank you so much for your generosity!!

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE ~ Saturday, December 24th at 7:00P.M. There will be Christmas Carols, music from our amazing Choir, Candle Lighting, and a Message of Hope and Joy. Please come and join us for a time of remembering the night that our Lord Jesus was born.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him