Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

Brad and Martha Marshall, along with Kim and I, had the opportunity to represent our church at the EPC General Assembly (GA) in the Detroit area a couple of weeks ago. Once again we experienced the joy of being part of our Christ centered denomination. In the thirty years I was in the PC(USA) I attended one GA. Without going into details let me say it was a very negative experience. Almost every vote went against the delegates who desired to retain the authority of Scripture. I have now attended five EPC General Assemblies. In the EPC every church is asked to send their Pastor and two Ruling Elders. This representation of every church insures that we are a "grass roots" denomination (no top-down power). It also assures that Ruling Elders (Session Members) have more "power" then Teaching Elders (Pastors). I want to share some highlights of GA.

Always the greatest highlight of GA is the worship. In the four days of GA we had the opportunity to worship six times. The worship is amazing! There were about 1250 people at GA. Ward Church hosted the meeting. Ward church is one of the original founding churches of the EPC in 1981. Each evening worship service was a different style of worship. Wednesday afternoon was a Contemporary worship service. The pastor of Ward Church shared a powerful message. Wednesday evening was a "traditional style". It featured the 90 member choir, the full orchestra, and an African American gospel team. The message was brought by an African American Pastor from an inner city church in Detroit. Thursday evening worship was a "Post Contemporary" worship service. This is a service aimed at 12 to 30 year olds. We knew it was going to be different when ear plugs were passed out as you entered the sanctuary. It was loud… and it was wonderful. Friday worship was especially powerful. The music was led by the worship team of Keith and Kristyn Getty. The Getty's and their worship team are from Ireland. They are authors and performers of contemporary hymns. They wrote the song "In Christ Alone." It was worship with an Irish flavor. Keith was on piano. Two violins (fiddles), a bagpipe type instrument, a couple of guitars and the drummer. Kristyn was the lead vocalist. It was great! The message was brought by Leighton Ford (the brother in law of Billy Graham).

The primary business of the meeting was the approval of a new "Position Paper" on homosexuality. It was wonderful to see this process. A team had written this new Paper. It is a balance between Biblical truth stating clearly that intimacy was to be between a husband and a wife and the need to love and care for the person struggling with homosexuality. It is very pastoral. It is careful to point out that brokenness is the root problem and this brokenness manifests itself in many ways. One manifestation of brokenness must not be seen as worse than other manifestations of brokenness. At the meeting there was a three hour seminar on how to share the love of Christ to the gay community. It was led by a bible professor from Moody Bible College who came out of the gay lifestyle.

The commissioning of our EPC Missionaries is another annual highlight. Most EPC Missionaries are in Muslim Countries. They are often in difficult and high risk situations. The final question given to these missionaries Is "Are you willing to give up your life for the ministry of Jesus Christ?" It is powerful seeing the missionaries, some with young children, vowing to share the love of Christ in dangerous countries.

We also began a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Mexico. This is the largest Presbyterian Denomination in the world. A number of years ago they broke off a partnership with the PC(USA) but still desire a USA partner. They will help the EPC plant churches in the USA in Hispanic communities. We will help them plant churches in Mexican communities along the USA border. We also continue our strong partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

On Saturday, Dean Weaver, a Pastor of a church in the Pittsburgh Area, was elected Moderator-Elect. He will Moderate the next GA meeting next June in Sacramento and lead the church the following year.

Again, it is a joy to be part of a church that is growing (we are up to almost 600 churches and are planting churches throughout the nation)… that desires to be pastoral to all people… that upholds the Word of God and loves Jesus.

Doug

JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Received from the Administration Committee a list of work needed to be completed around the church. Most of the tasks on this worksheet have been completed in the past three weeks. The new office (the old Janitors room) has been cleaned and painted by a wonderful team of women and Dawn is transferring her office to this room. Her old office will be used by the new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Thank you to the women who spent countless hours and days cleaning and preparing the garage and the stage (including the closets) and the closet next to the stage (where you will now find all the paper products) and the room behind the furnace room and then transferring the Janitorial supplies to these rooms. A number of men have placed new bricks around the front garden, killed the grass in the upper stone parking lot, installed a new outlet in the closet next to the stage for the freezer, cleaned the shelter gutters, painted the exterior trim around the Fellowship Hall, installed the new basketball hoop purchased by the Woman's Association. Repaired the picnic tables under the shelter.**
- **Administration Committee also reported that three additional projects need to be completed. The Picnic tables need to be repainted. New Lights will be installed by the new handicap parking area. The Woman's Association will purchase one of the lights and the church will purchase the other light and the men will install them. Also the Stage area will be modified. New storage closets will be installed at the back of the stage (the old closets on the sound room side of the stage will be removed) and a closet at floor level will be built on that side to store all the tables and chairs.**
- **Interviewed a potential person to serve as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. More details will be shared very soon. Commended Jocilyn Houk for providing leadership to our youth as she has served as the solo Youth Director since April.**
- **Received a first reading of a comprehensive Child Protection Policy. This policy has been written by the Pastor and the Personnel Committee to first and foremost protect our children. Second, the Policy is meant to protect the adults working with our children, and third to protect our church from any possible future legal issues. This policy is available to anyone who wants to review it and give input (it is in the Pastor's Office). The final draft will be approved at our September Session Meeting.**
- **Reviewed the Job descriptions of all staff and reviewed the Operations Manual. Again this is in preparation of the new staff position.**
- **Received reports of the summer activities of the Evangelism committee, the worship committee, the Mission committee, the Men's Ministry, and the Vision team.**
- **Christian Ed committee reported on the plans for VBS**



Pete Carlisle.....04
Ted Chrobak.....05
David Hunt.....05
Mary Stoughton.....05
Erma Gorley.....07
Emma Duffy.....08
Paden McCarthy.....08
Gisela Dieter.....10
Tammy Anderson.....13
Terri Emery.....13
Melvin Kauffman.....13
Ciarra McAllen.....14
Mary Miller.....14
Robert Bretz Sr.....15
Ursula Pence.....15
Sandy Courson.....16
Shirley Goist.....16
Mary Hartzell.....16
Renee Burrows Persky.....19
Lena Showman.....19
Meadow Whiting.....21
Dot Jones.....22
Mitchell Whiting.....25
Kelly Fox.....26
Jacob Smith.....27
James Matthews.....31



Juanita Cornman.....03
Bobby Liddell.....03
Aaron Ealy.....04
Autumn Ealy.....04
Don Jones.....07
Marie Snyder.....07
Sandy Ruby.....08
Nancy Cummings.....10
Rosalie Black.....13
Brad Marshall.....13
Pastor Runyan.....14
James Buxton.....15
Ted Hilliard.....15
Larry Pence.....16
Carol Madden.....17
Erin Teachy.....18
Madison Liddell.....22
Henry Sikora.....27
Lori Jones.....28
Wes Jones.....29
Helen Ruby.....29

August Welcome Warrior

Doug & Angela Houk

August Head Ushers

8/7 – Gary Geisinger

8/14 & 8/21 – Ray Pence

8/28 – Christian Fulkman

August Greeters

8/7 – Art & Doris Spence

8/14 – Kim Runyan

8/21 – Pam Liddell

September Welcome Warrior

Brenda Hostetler

September Head Usher

Jessica Halt

September Greeters

9/4 – Judy Stuhlmann

9/11 – NO greeters – Outdoor Service

9/18 – Gary & Deneen Greene

9/25 – Lois Adams



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)

MISSION NEWS



Matt & Stacey Ayars will be here from Haiti this Sunday, July 24th. Matt will preach at each service. There will be a breakfast between services for a time of fellowship. Come join us!

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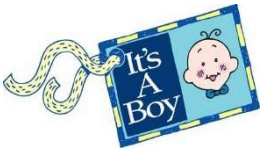
We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Ruth McClanahan, Ruth passed away last month.



We also extend sympathy to the family and friends of Dan Pelles, Dan also passed away last month.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

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Congratulations to Alyssa Boyer on the birth of her new baby boy, Korbin on June 8th. Korbin weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. & was 19 inches long. Donna Boyer is the proud new grandma!!

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They say that time heals all wounds, but I found that time and good friends help even more. Thank you everyone who prayed, sent cards, called or brought food after my recent surgery. What a blessing it is to belong to a loving church family!



-Len Halt

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The family of Ruth McClanahan would like to thank everyone during the passing of Ruth for all of the prayers, cards and visits. Everything was greatly appreciated. -The Eric Keller Family

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I would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, cards, gifts and visits during my recent knee replacement surgery. It was all greatly appreciated!

Thank You – Bud Freeman



DAVID JEREMIAH STAND UP TOUR

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

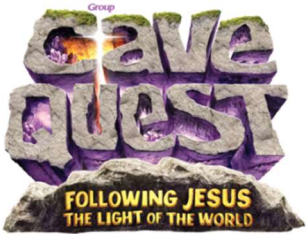
WHERE: CONSOL ENERGY CENTER, PITTSBURGH

The doors open at 5:30 pm with the event starting at 7:00.

The Evangelism Committee invites you to join them for this wonderful time of worship with David Jeremiah and special music by MercyMe. The event ticket is **free for the Consol Energy Center.** (There are no assigned seats) We currently have 28 tickets. The Committee would like to charter a mini bus if enough interest is shown. The cost would be $25.00 per person for the bus. The bus will leave around 4:30 pm and return around 10:30 pm. If we do not get enough people for the bus, we will give those who signed up for the event a ticket for the Consol Energy Center and transportation will be their ***own responsibility*.**

We need to know ASAP if you are interested in going.

We will be in the narthex on July 24, Aug. 7, 14 and 21 for sign ups.



A HUGE Thank You to all the Adults & Youth Splunkers that helped with Cave Quest Vacation Bible School!! It was a blessed week with 32 kids attending. The week would not have been possible without the faithful servants helping in this ministry!

Mary Beckman
Helen Ruby
Erin O'Brien
Julie Whiting
Madeline Whiting
Tim Pogozelec
Shirley Janoski
Betty Jones
Isaac Duffy
Margie Matthews
Dan Dieter
Judy Stuhlmann
GayAnn Miller
Linda Feil
Karen Carenbauer
Nancy Bretz
Jackie Hall
Grant Dieter
Helen Bicehouse
Terri Emery
Jessica Halt
Evelyn Exley
Cindy Bell
Nicholas Moore
Jacob Moore
Samuel Moore
Brandi Buxton
Emily Withers
Emma Duffy
Madison Liddell
Meadow Whiting
Beth Kendall
Kara Kendall
Shirley Goist

Mark your calendar……save the date

I Scream…You Scream…We all Scream for……
AWANA & ICE CREAM!!!!!

We are kicking off Awana with a family fun night to register for the coming year. Join us on Wednesday September 7th 5:30-6:30 to register for Awana, play games with Coach Lee, meet the Awana leaders, and get a treat from the Ice Cream Truck.

Regular Club meetings will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 14th 5:15-7:00

New Bedford EP Church is excited to announce another year of…..

Regular Club Night begins Wednesday, September 14th

Q: What is Awana? A: Awana is an international, non-denominational ministry to help churches and parents to raise children and youth to know, love, and serve Christ.

Q: Who can come to Awana? Awana is an evening program for children in grades K-6.

Q: When is Awana? A: Awana begins September 14th and continues every Wednesday till March 29th. However, there is no Awana on days the school is not in session.

Q: What do the kids do at Awana? A: The schedule includes *Handbook Time*-this is the time dedicated to Bible verse memorization and application using age-appropriate handbooks. All Bible verses are taken word-for-word from the Bible.

Large Group Time-this is the time of music, prayer and an age-appropriate Bible message is presented. Also, awards will be presented to recognize the Clubbers who complete sections in their handbooks.

Game Time-this is a time for the Clubbers to practice teamwork and good sportsmanship by competing in fun, organized games.

Q: How can I be involved with Awana? A: The ministry of Awana can only exist with the support of the congregation and community. Please be in prayer to discover how God can use you in this children's ministry.

Following is a list and brief description of areas where you could make an eternal difference.

Director- The Club Director will assist in leading Large Group Time.

Leader- Leaders will guide their group of Clubbers to the Game Time and Large Group Time. Leaders will build relationships with their Clubbers and encourage their walk with the Lord. Leaders will assist the Clubbers during Handbook Time, helping them to work through their handbook and understand what they are learning.

Listener- Listeners are needed during Handbook Time to listen to a Clubber recite the Bible verses.

Secretary-Keeps track of Clubbers progress, marks record cards, distributes award jewels and emblems, and collect dues.

Prayer Partner- partner with a Clubber to lift in prayer during the months of Awana.

There is a place for you to be a life changer through Awana.

Please be in prayer for this ministry.

If you love the Lord, are energetic and like being with kids, please call me!!

Do not fear, there is training for all the positions listed above.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together we can encourage children to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Dawn Harris, Awana Commander



AWANA MEETING
2016 AWANA FOCUS UPDATE MEETING
Thursday, August 4th 7:15-8:45
At Pathway Church,
239 Braun Ave, Beaver Falls PA
Presented by Marlin & Donna Fuller

Awana has released new T&T Curriculum for the Fall of 2016. You DO NOT want to miss this meeting that will review what is new. This will be a wonderful time for returning or new leaders to FOCUS on the upcoming year of Awana! I'd love to have you go with me! Sign up TODAY by calling Dawn, 330-881-8110 or at the Awana table in the vestibule at church.

Looking Ahead

PROMOTION SUNDAY….. Sunday, September 11th

Dawn Harris, Director of Children's Ministry 330-881-8110 dawnhnbpc@aol.com

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Upcoming Youth Group Activities

August 5th ~ Paintball at Dimension Paintball, this will cost $36.00 per person.

August 11th ~ Scrapper's Baseball Game – It is "buck" night so admission is $1.00, as well as hotdogs and drinks!!!!

These will be the last summer activities for Youth Group