Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

I had a chance to hear a sermon at the last Presbytery meeting that made me think and reflect (isn't that what sermons are supposed to do?). The topic of the sermon was how to deal with criticism. In my job I, at times, I am criticized. Often I do not hear this criticism but at times I do.

I remember the first time I was criticized as a Pastor of a church. It was at Mountville, my first full time pastorate. I made a decision and put into action a plan I thought was good for the church. A week or two later, at a Session meeting, a couple of Elders complained that I had not taken this idea to the Session first. I remember I got very defensive and strongly defended my action as being "good for the church." After the meeting I thought about my actions. I realized two things…. First the Elders were right in their criticism, and second my defense of my actions was totally inappropriate. They were not criticizing the action… they were criticizing the process of making the decision. I went to the Elders and apologized for my actions. Truthfully this laid a foundation for a wonderful time of ministry at Mountville. I wish I could say this first conflict taught me a lesson that I applied for the rest of my ministry. I cannot say that. Time and time again my first reaction to criticism is defensiveness. I guess I can say this…. Often (not always) now I catch myself fairly quickly and try to change course.

The text at the Presbytery meeting for the sermon was 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10. It states….*Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.[8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. [9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. [10] That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong*

Paul was being severely criticized for his ministry. People were questioning his right to be a leader of the church. One of the primary criticisms was that he was not a very good speaker. They said his letters were powerful but his words were weak. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 11 and 12 does not list all his great accomplishments. He speaks of his hardships and of some of his failures. He speaks of the times he was lowered in a basket over the city walls and had to flee for his life. He shares that he has a "thorn in his side" (possibly a speech impediment or a vision problem).

He concludes this section praising God for his weaknesses. He states that it is in his weakness that he discovers the grace of God. He has discovered that in his weaknesses he discovers the necessity of reliance upon the Holy Spirit and His power.

This was a message that I had to hear. Once again I was challenged to not get defensive in the face of criticism. It does not matter if the criticism is true or not. I must rely upon the power of God…..never on my own power. I am far, far from perfect. Forgive me when that imperfection affects you. Forgive me for my times of defensiveness. My desire is to act under the power of the Holy Spirit. My desire is to discover always that the grace of God is sufficient for me.

I believe this is also true for us as a church. Together we must rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit. Together we must see the grace of God in our midst and praise Him for that grace. Let us, as much as possible, put criticism and defensiveness behind us. Let us remember the words of Paul in Ephesians 4: 29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Praise God for His patience and forgiveness. Praise God that in our weakness he becomes strong in our lives.

In Christ,

Doug

SESSION SUMMARY

- **Received the Financial report. As of the end of August our income was $30,118 over our expenditures.**
- **Changed our Electricity provider**
- **Noted that the new closet besides the stage was completed. Thank you to Bob Exley for building this new closet for our tables and chairs.**
- **Received additional bids for the remodeling for the upstairs bathrooms at the manse**
- **Received a report from Awana. Noted that a new pre-school class has begun (Cubbies). Over 30 children are registered for our Awana ministry**
- **Began a new rotational Sunday School teachers schedule. We are asking teachers to serve for a quarter (three months). It was noted that this means additional men and women are needed to serve as teachers.**
- **Approved an adult New Members Class. New members will be received on October 16th**
- **Hired Erin O'Brien to serve as Temporary Nursery Worker. Erin will serve until Brenda is able to return**
- **Approved the baptism of Julianna Bell Prager.**
- **Noted that the Personnel Committee will begin annual review of staff**
- **Received a preliminary report from the Nominating Committee**
- **Reviewed the new Child Protection Policy for the church. Will be finalized at next meeting**
- **Received reports from the Woman Association, the Men's Ministry, the Stephens Ministry and the Vision Team.**
- **Next Presbytery meeting will be November 5th at Trinity Seminary in Ambridge**

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Thank You to…….

- **Gary Greene for installing the new lights for the handicap parking. He was assisted by Duane Boyles and Dennis Jones.**
- **Nancy Bretz for her many hours removing wallpaper and painting the new office.**
- **The men and women who are leading our ministry to our children in Sunday School and Awana.**
- **The Worship Committee for overseeing the Outdoor Worship Service.**
- **The Evangelism Committee for arranging the trip to hear David Jeremiah.**
- **Donna Fox for her many hours of additional work, working with the Special Music individuals and groups throughout the summer.**
- **The Choir for beginning a new Fall.**
- **The Worship Team who never has a break as they lead the Early Worship Service every Sunday.**

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Bell.....01
Rachel (Hostetler) Garrett.....02
Donald Hartzell.....04
Lorna Keller.....05
Tom Madden.....05
Katie Magee.....05
Connie Shick.....05
Jean Chrobak.....08
Connor O'Brien.....08
Marilyn Pelles.....08
Amanda Rudzik.....10
Don Jones.....12
Jack Keesey.....15
Brandy McAllen.....16
Ariana Carr.....17
Emily Bretz.....18
Kristi Jones.....18
Brock Janoski.....19
Gladys Barnhart.....21
Jocilyn Houk.....21
Dylan Dieter.....22
Elaine Hepler.....22
Jeremiah Withers.....24
Kelly (Craig) Miller.....25
Tyler Craig.....25
Wyatt Dean.....25
Debbie Pogozelec.....25
Bev Varano.....26
Shawn Kendall.....30
Bob Exley.....31
Marilyn McConahy.....31



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Violet Hilliard.....03
Deneen Greene.....06
James Emery.....08
Dana Gardner.....11
Brenda Hostetler.....16
Bernice Boyer.....25
Lee Harris.....27
Alyssa Boyer.....29
Curtis Bretz.....29
Barrett Craig.....29

THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
FALL BAZAAR IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER…..
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Be thinking about what you are able to donate for the BAZAAR… We have many specialty rooms including a: Candy Room, Craft Room, Christmas Room, Book Room, Cookie Room, Plant Room, Toy Room, 'Trash & Treasure' Room, & The Country Store (this is where homemade baked goods and delicious soup will be sold to take home)

***The garage is open for all of your saleable items* (please box them up and label them 'BAZAAR')**

The Fellowship Hall will be a 'Cafeteria' where you are able to purchase lunch and enjoy a meal with friends & family

Many volunteers are needed in order to make this a success, if you are able to donate some of your time, please see Nancy Bretz

Just a note from:

- ***Women's Association*** **– The Women's Association received permission from the Session to purchase and install new room darkening blinds on the exterior windows of the sanctuary. Thank you Lori Smith for spearheading this project. Also, many of the women are hard at work preparing for the Bazaar which will be held Saturday, November 5.**

- ***Vision Team*** **– The Vision Team continues to meet. Their discussion and prayer time is centered on discerning who God is calling New Bedford EPC to particularly minister to in our local community. Please pray for the stirring of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.**

- ***Stephen Ministries*** **– The Stephen Ministers are working on continuing education. Their current area of study focuses on ministry to those needing long term care. Remember Stephen Ministers are trained lay-people ready to walk alongside those who are facing difficult times in their lives.**



OCTOBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Deborah Circle ~ meeting on Tuesday, October 11th at 9:30a.m. @ the home of Carol Shura

Rebecca Circle ~ meeting on Saturday, October 15th at 9:00a.m. @ Bedford Trails Restaurant

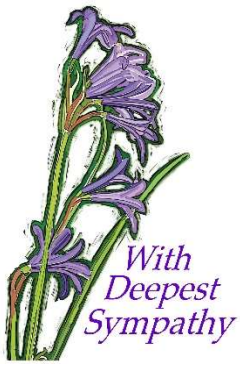
Ruth Circle ~ meeting on Monday, October 17th at 9:30a.m.

Lydia Circle ~ meeting on Monday, October 17th at 1:00p.m.

Elizabeth Circle ~ meeting on Thursday, October 20th at 6:30p.m.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Miller. Mary went to be with the Lord last month on September 3rd. Mary was a faithful member of our church and will be missed.

"Let not your hearts be troubled, Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."
John 14:1-2



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The Evangelism Committee is still looking for volunteers to man the 'Welcome Center' during the months of October 2016 thru February 2017. If you are interested in helping, please see someone from the Evangelism Committee! Thanks!

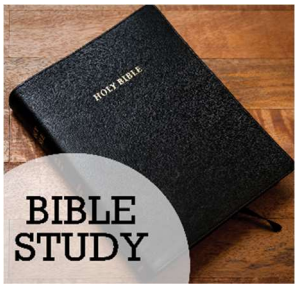
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Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

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



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Wednesday Evening Bible Study will start back up on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:35p.m. Join Pastor Doug as he leads a study through the book of Ephesians.

Awana Happenings
October 2016

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

151 Woodland Dr.
Pulaski PA 16143

Dawn Harris, Awana Commander
dawnhnbpc@aol.com 330-881-8110

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Clubbers will earn ONE point for each of the following:

Attendance***Bring a Bible***Bring Handbook***Complete Sections***Church Attendance

At the end of the year, the Clubbers will be able to shop at the 'MarketPlace' using the points that they earned.

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Awana CAN make a difference for the CITY RESCUE MISSION

This year's Mission Project **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 Club is collecting items for the Thanksgiving Baskets that get distributed during the holiday. This collection will start today and continue till November 9th. Our goal is to collect 150 items!

The Items Needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets:

Evaporated Milk	Canned Gravy	Pie Crust Mix	Cranberry Sauce
Pumpkin Pie Filling	Canned Yams	Stuffing Mix	Vegetables

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

October 5th – Regular Awana Club Night

October 12th – Double Double Points Night

Clubbers will get double the points for attendance, bringing their Bible and Handbook, and completing sections. Remember points accumulate through the year to shop at the marketplace in April.

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October 19th – Regular Awana Club Night

October 26th – Inside Out Night – Wear your clothes inside out.

….for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (I Samuel 16:7)

Church Family Day Out

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd at 11:00-??

Irons Mill Farmstead, 252 Greenfield Rd, New Wilmington, PA 16142
Join us for some Fall Fun on the Farm!
Hop-hop on Jumpin'Jackdaws**Cornfield Maze**Cackleberry Bounce
Photo Ops**Corncob Beach**Rubber Duck Races**Pumpkin Slingshot
Climb Mt. Arthur**Super Slides**Hayrides**Fun Farm Animals

We have the Campfire Pit reserved from 1:00-3:00. Come roast hot dogs & s'mores for lunch and fellowship! This is for the entire congregation! FREE for Seniors 60+ and 2 yrs & under /Everyone Else $8.00
Sign up sheet is in the vestibule or
contact Dawn Harris by Thursday, October 20th if you plan to go.
The tickets have to be preordered to get the discounted price.

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

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Snowmen 'Pick and Paint'

WHEN? **Friday, October 14th @ 6:30p.m.**

WHERE? **Here at the church!**

Jackie Hall will be leading a 'Pick and Paint' class, not to be confused with a 'Sip and Paint' class, a 'Pick and Paint' means that we will 'pick' at snacks while we are painting our snowmen project(s). Everyone is invited to attend this class if you are ages 8 and up.

What to bring to the class:

- **1 or 2 glass items to paint. These can be clear glass or colored glass. They can be plain cups for mugs that you already have in your cupboards at home. Other suggestions are salt & pepper shakers (no ridges – they must have smooth sides), plates, or chargers.**
- **If you have a medium paint brush, please bring it with you.**
- **Wear an apron or older clothes (if you are messy!)**
- **A munchie/snack to share with the class.**

******Several blow dryers are needed.**

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Silver Ring Thing-**Sunday, October 9th at Victory Family Church in Cranberry. Doors open at 5:30. Program is from 6pm-8pm. We will leave the church at 4:45. The cost is $6/online or $8/door. You may also purchase a ring for $20. There is a parent session from 6:00-6:45. Don't know what Silver Ring Thing is all about? Check out their website. I STRONGLY encourage all youth and their parents to join us for the evening. It's a fun evening with a very powerful message! Any questions, please let me know.**



Night at the Movies – Saturday, October 15th. Jessica Halt is organizing this special movie night to see "Priceless". More details will be coming in the weekly bulletin.

Hayride – Sunday, October 30th. The Whiting's will be hosting a hayride at their house. More details will be coming in the weekly bulletin.

Pie Sale - The Youth are now having their annual pie sale. You are able to order pies for the next 3 weeks. Pies are $10 each and the following pies will be available: Apple Crisp, Apple/Caramel/Walnut, Blackberry, Cherry, Peach Praline, Pumpkin, Red Raspberry, Pecan, Strawberry Rhubarb, and Very Berry. We also have Pumpkin Rolls for $7 each. They will be delivered the week before Thanksgiving. Orders will be taken before and after church for the next 3 weeks or you can contact Geniene Jones or call the church office to place your order! Thank You!



