Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to share with you the privilege we have to touch the world with the massage of Christ. I have the opportunity every third Thursday of the month to go to a meeting made up of Pastors and Elders in the EPC that form our Network. Our Network (it does not really have a name) is composed of about 17 EPC churches located in Pennsylvania north of Pittsburgh (from Beaver to Erie). We come together for support, prayer and ministry. We have discovered that when we join together, sharing our people and our finances, we can do wonderful, wonderful things. Every month we get an update on the ministries that our Network is involved in. Allow me to share some of these joys.

Youth Ministry: A couple of weeks ago our Network organized and held a Youth Retreat at Camp Allegheny (a Salvation Army camp just outside of Ellwood City). Approximately 170 teens from our churches participated. Jocelyn and Kyle took youth from our church. Every report I hear about the Retreat includes words like "awesome," "great," "Christ centered." Our young people had the opportunity to join with peers to worship the Lord. They went to "break out sessions" to discover how to grow in faith and live as Christians in their worlds. They have fun together and discover that they have peers who are also alive in their faith walk.

Church Plant the United States: As a Network we are planting an EPC church in Idora. Idora is a neighborhood in Youngstown. Those who are a little bit older remember the amusement park that used to be in Idora. It is a neighborhood that still identifies itself as a community. Although there is still crime in the neighborhood it has the lowest crime rate in Youngstown. It is a primarily African-American neighborhood made up of individual homes. There is not a church in Idora. Gary Koerth has served as an Associate Pastor at Tabernacle EPC (located in Austintown) for many years. He has led an outreach from Tabernacle to Idora for a number of years. He has a heart for the people of Idora. He has a calling from the Lord to lead this ministry. Tabernacle has freed up his time to be the church planter in Idora. He and his wife have sold their home in Austintown and are moving into Idora. Three or four other young couples from Tabernacle have also moved into Idora. Every Tuesday they are prayer walking the neighborhood. Gary is working closely with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation. They are boarding up abandoned homes (40% of houses in Youngstown are abandoned and become places of prostitution and crime). They have built neighborhood playgrounds. Last Fall they held their first Halloween community fair at one of the playgrounds. There is no "trick or treat" in Youngstown because of fear of crime. Gary and a group of volunteers passed out candy and met children from the community. Gary is now looking for a place to purchase and begin a Community Center. Gary is looking for a place to purchase and begin a church. Gary met with the Mayor of Youngstown a couple weeks ago to discuss his plans and dreams. We have the privilege to be part of this ministry. We are supporting this ministry financially and soon, as the second closest EPC church to Idora after Tabernacle, we will ask volunteers to help in the outreach ministry and in the building renovations after we find the sites for Gray's home, the Community Center and the Church.

Church Plant Fintonia Sierra Leone: Two years ago our Network decided to plant a church in a small village in Fintonia. We raised the money to hire Dominic and Ruth, natives of Sierra Leone, to serve as pastors in this community. Every year we send a group of people to Sierra Leone to help and encourage the ministry. We are working closely with EduNations. This group has for the past 10 years been organizing and funding schools in Sierra Leon. There is now a school in Fintonia. There is now a church in Fintonia. There are now Christians in this formerly 100% Muslim village. A couple weeks ago Scott Graham, pastor of an EPC church in Chippewa was in Fintonia and baptized over 40 individuals. Ruth has begun a sewing ministry to help the women have a source of income. There are over 160 Ebola orphans in the EduNations schools. Last year we built a home for Dominic and Ruth and their three children. The village has donated land for the building of a Church. In the next few months we will begin the building. Dominic has applied for a Visa so he can come to our area and to GA this summer. What a joy it is to be part of this ministry.

Next month I will talk about the ministries of Matt and Stacy in Haiti and Autumn in Haiti and Laura and Edgar in Guatemala and Adam at Miracle Mountain and the lives touched at Seneca Hills and at the City Rescue Mission. What a joy to know we are part of God's movement in our area and in the World.

Doug

SESSION NOTES

- **Approved minutes of January Session meeting and Congregational meeting.**
- **Hired Nancy Bretz as the new Church Treasurer. She will begin training with Deneen.**
- **Approved removal of ash trees along power lines by Power company.**
- **Approved sub committee of Administration Committee to design upgrade of manse bathrooms.**
- **Received update on search for full time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Have received a number of resume and responses to questionnaire. Will begin interviewing in next month.**
- **Approved vacation request for Doug. On Sunday, June 26th Gary Koerth will lead worship (Idora church planter) and on July 3rd Lindon Fowler will lead worship (new Seneca Hills Executive Director).**
- **Invited Elders to serve as Delegates to this years GA in Detroit area.**
- **Received reports from the Women's Association, Men's Ministry, Stephens Ministry and the Vision Team.**
- **Reviewed details for hosting the Presbytery meeting.**
- **Pastor Dave shared his plans on relocating to Virginia in early March.**

Thank You....

Presbytery meeting

I want to thank everyone who gave their time and effort that enable us to host Presbytery. I can not name names because it is too many people. Thank you to the men who braved the cold to serve in the parking lot. Thank yo to the many men and women who worked in the kitchen preparing the meal. Thank you to the hosts and greeters who made everyone feel welcome, served at the registration desk and served in the cookie room. Thank you to the men, women and youth who served the meal. Thank you to everyone who helped clear up after the mean. Thank you to everyone who baked. The amount of pies, coffee cakes and cookies was overwhelming (we were able to send "leftovers" to the City Rescue Mission.) Thank you to all who led our worship. Thank you to the members of the choir and the worship team. Thank you to our musicians. Thank you to Pastor Dave for sharing the message Saturday morning. Thank you to the Worship Committee and the Deacons and the Elders who provided leadership. I received many, many positive comments from our guests on all aspects of the meeting. The church that is hosting the next Presbytery meeting stated they will use us as a model. Again, Thank you

Doug

General Assembly

The Annual General Assemble of the EPC will be held outside of Detroit from June 22nd to June 25th. This is a wonderful time of worship, discovery, and fellowship. There is a special "track" for women in the church.. Because it is relatively close (a five hour drive) I want to invite you to join Kim and I in attending this GA. The time to book hotels is now. The hotels will sell out! Registration will open soon. The cost is about $100.00 to register and about $100.00 per night for the hotel. For more information go to the EPC national website. Let me know is you would like to attend this GA

Doug

MISSION NEWS

A total of 27 Mission Committee members and members of the congregation went on January 23, 2016 to the City Rescue Mission in New Castle, PA to prepare and serve the meal for the men at the Mission. Along with preparing and serving the meal we assisted in several odd jobs around the mission. The City Rescue Mission has been one of the long standing local missions that is supported by the mission giving of our congregation.

We ranged in age from young to "older" and we thank everyone that joined us; prepared food; and baked cakes for the dessert. It was a great evening.

Those attending were, Brenda Hostetler; Brad & Marti Marshall; Jim & Terry Emery; Tim Pogozelec and Nicholas Moore; June & Lori Smith; Dawn, Lee, Brandon & Ethan Harris; Linda Canami; Diana & Jess Halt; Doug & Kim Runyan; Harry Cornman; Glenda Fulkman; Judy Stuhlmann, Christy Cunningham, Danny; Mary Beckman; Ellen McClelland; Nancy & Paul Cummings.

March Welcome Warriors

Margie Matthews and Linda Canami

March Head Usher

Gary Greene

March Greeters

March 6th ~ Ted & Mary Jane Hilliard

March 13th ~ Linda Feil & Shirley Snyder

March 20th ~ Tracy Duffy & Family

Maundy Thursday ~ Cindy Bell

Good Friday ~ Lori Smith

March 27th ~ Ed & Martha Miller

March Birthdays

Gene Bicehouse.....03
Steve Fox.....03
Sally Withers.....04
Emily Withers.....05
Sue Bluedorn.....08
Doug Houk.....13
Larry Bluedorn.....15
James Allison.....17
Jake Emery.....17
Sandra Saulpaugh.....17
Dan Dieter.....19
Ed Rudzik.....20
Beth Kendall.....22
John Book.....25
Jackie Hall.....25
Jamie Phillips.....26
Robert Bretz.....27
Ryan Morse.....27
Judy Stuhlmann.....29
Helen Bicehouse.....30

Women's News

March Circle Meetings

Deborah Circle – Tuesday, March 9th at 9:30a.m. at the Church

Elizabeth Circle – Thursday, March 17th at 6:30p.m. at the Church

Rebecca Circle – Saturday, March 19th at 9:00a.m. at Bedford Trails Rest.

Ruth Circle – Monday, March 21st at 9:30a.m. at the Church

Lydia Circle – Monday, March 21st at 1:00p.m. at the Church

Don't Miss the next meeting of the Women's Association of New Bedford EPC!

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 1:00pm in the Church Parlor. A new topic of discussion will be the scheduling of future Women's Association meeting. We will also be discussing the retreat, National Day of Prayer, and our Spring Gathering.

Kim Runyan has asked if there are a couple of women who would be willing to serve with her on our Mission Interpretation and Thank Offering Committee. Ladies, if you would be willing to serve or would like to discuss this wonderful opportunity, please give me, Judy Riethmiller, a call at 724-730-6495 or catch me at church. Please pray that the Lord will provide women to serve in this capacity.

Don't forget to register for the Women's Retreat! April 15 & 16 at the Castle in Franklin PA we will join together as sisters in Christ to grow our relationships with Christ and each other. Come be refreshed at the *Lavender Springs Spa*. Please take time to read the additional information about the retreat in this newsletter.



2016 Women's Retreat
April 15-16
@ The Castle, Franklin, PA
last day to register is
Sunday, April 10th

men's ministry



The Men's Ministry of NBEPC will be hosting a Wild Game night on Saturday, March 5, 2016. There will be ham and turkey served for those who don't prefer wild game. Please come out for a time of good food and fellowship. Dinner will begin at 5:30p.m. (at this dinner we will honor Pastor Dave Hunt).

Several of our men went to Man Camp and a good time was had by all. Opportunities for spiritual growth were offered and plenty of challenges were put before our men. If you are curious about Man Camp, please speak to Harry Riethmiller or Steve Fox.

There will be a canoe trip on April 16, 2016. Harry Riethmiller is the point person for this event. Please let Harry know before April if you intend to go on this trip. There will be a need to ensure that there are enough canoe's and supplies.

The Men's ministry will be going through a time of transition as Pastor Dave leaves NBEPC. He was offered a position in Portsmouth, VA. He and Ruth will be moving the weekend of March 11th. The Men's ministry has been meeting on the second Saturday of every month. They have been meeting at Riethmiller Lumber, in New Wilmington. A strong core group has been taking shape and the men have been participating in a time of discussion about Biblical Manhood.

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



This lively discussion group has been studying the book of Hebrews in recent weeks. Pastor Dave hopes to wrap that study up over the next two weeks before he and Ruth move to Virginia. This group has been a faithful group committed learners who are also bringing their perspectives to the discussion time.

EVANGELISM NEWS

Easter Egg Hunt

The Evangelism Committee will be hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th. Since many children from the community will be attending, we are asking you to please consider helping us by donating a bag of individually wrapped small candy pieces (such as miniature candy bars, M&M's etc.). The candy will then be placed inside of plastic eggs. There will be a box in the Narthex for all donations.

*The Evangelism Committee would like to thank you in advance for your help!

Movie and Lenten Supper

The Evangelism and Worship Committees will be hosting a Lenten movie night and soup supper on Palm Sunday, March 20th. The movie, *WAR ROOM*, will be shown at 4pm (approx. 120 min. long) with a soup supper to follow (sometime around 6pm).

Please come join us and see what the power of prayer can do!



+



Movie and Lenten Soup Supper

Sunday, March 20th

movie will begin at 4 pm

soup supper will follow (approx. 6 pm)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 20th ~ Palm Sunday, worship services at 8:30a.m. and 10:45a.m. Movie (War Room) beginning at 4:00p.m. and Soup Supper to follow at 6:00p.m.

Thursday, March 24th ~ Maundy Thursday Last Supper Drama, begins at 7:00p.m.

Friday, March 25th ~ Good Friday Service beginning at 7:00p.m.

Saturday, March 26th ~ Community Easter Egg Hunt, will be 10:00a.m. -11:30a.m. We are receiving donations of candy for the plastic eggs. Please invite neighbors and friends as we share the message of Christ with our community this morning.

Sunday, March 27th ~ Easter Sunrise Service will begin at 8:30a.m., this service will include Senior Testimonies, Youth Drama, Worship Team and a Easter Message from Pastor Doug. Following the Sunrise Service there will be a continental breakfast at approximately 9:30a.m. At 10:45a.m. we will have an Easter Sunday Celebration of Resurrection Service, which will include the wonderful ministry of our choir. We hope to see you at one or both of these wonderful Easter morning services.

*Also as is our tradition we will have a prayer vigil from Thursday evening to Sunday morning. Please sign-up to spend an hour in prayer.

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EASTER EGG HUNT



WHEN: Saturday, March 26th

TIME: 10:00am to 11:30am

All children, through sixth grade, are invited to join us at New Bedford EP Church for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Registration will begin at 9:30am followed by crafts, a puppet show, snacks and of course the egg hunt! All are welcome. This event will take place rain or shine.



The Sewing Group has started meeting again on Wednesday's from 9:00a.m. until noon. Please join them! You do NOT have to know how to sew!

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There will be a blood drive at Mahoning Presbyterian Church this spring (they cannot secure a date until enough people are signed up). There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway. Please sign up if you are able to donate!

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A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who has suffered a loss or is going through a difficult time? Here's a way you can help them – tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of New Bedford Evangelical Presbyterian Church who have received special training to provide high quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend. To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Judy Riethmiller 724-730-6495 or Diana Halt 724-977-8268.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

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ANNUAL COUPLES RETREAT

This year's Couples Retreat will be held on March 11-12 at the Hampton Inn in West Middlesex. If you are interested, please pick up a green registration form located in the Narthex. Please see Pastor Doug if you have any questions.



March 2nd – Regular Club Night

March 9th – Double, Double Points Night

March 16th – Green Night

Clubbers are to wear something green…. Green Shirt, Green Pants, Green Hat, Green Socks, Green anything!!

March 23rd – Regular Club Night

March 30th – Hats Off to your Leaders and Director Night

Show some love for your Leaders, Coach Lee, Director Shirley (Grades K-2), & Director Dawn (Grades 3-6) with a handmade card or note. **AND wear your favorite hat!!** Clubbers will be able to shop at the 'Marketplace' with the points that they earned during Awana!

Awana Mission Update

Awana CAN make a difference for the CITY RESCUE MISSION

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of food! To Date there is 216 lbs collected!

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

Needed Items:

Jelly	Cereal	Canned Soup	Canned Veggies
Tuna	Pork & Beans	Kidney Beans	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 MARCH----CANNED FRUIT

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

Donation Opportunity----On Wednesday, March 30th the AWANA Clubbers will have the opportunity to go shopping in our 'church' marketplace. They get to buy items with the points they earned. They can earn points each week for; attendance, bringing a Bible, bringing their Handbook, completing sections and attending church. Many kids have earned a lot of points and they look forward to shopping with them at the end of Awana. *If you would be able to donate items for the marketplace please leave them in the box in the vestibule by* ***Sunday, March 26th***. Many great items could be purchased from a dollar store. If you have any questions please let me know. Thanks for your help in rewarding the kids for their commitment in Awana and earning points.

Looking Ahead…….2nd Annual AWARDS NIGHT

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

5:00-7:00 PM

EVERYONE is invited to join us in recognizing this year's Awana Clubbers. We are excited about their accomplishments and this will be a special ending to our year. A dinner will be served after the Awards Ceremony. *Please sign up in the Vestibile so we can plan accordingly.* Thank you. It will begin at 5:00 in the Sanctuary at New Bedford EP Church. If you have any questions please contact Commander Dawn, 330-881-8110. We look forward to seeing you on April 6th.

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I just want to commend the youth for the wonderful job they did serving and cleaning up after the Presbytery meeting. I had several attendees comment on the excellent job they did.

Great job!

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UPCOMING YOUTH ACTIVITIES……..

March 3rd-5th: Wilmington Musical "Curtains" starting at 7:30pm all three nights.

March 11th: Meet at the church at 7:30pm. Helping Dave and Ruth Hunt move boxes into their trailer. They live in Grove City so it depends on when we will be back at the church.

March 25th: Stuffing eggs for Easter Egg Hunt. Meet at the church at 7:30pm to stuff 1,000 eggs! There will be pizza provided to fuel us for the task ☺

March 26th: Easter Egg Hunt. Meet at the church at 9am to help hide eggs and construct crafts. The hunt starts at 10am and goes until 11:30am.

April 1st: (not a joke) God's Not Dead 2 plays in theaters. We will be going to a show that Friday night!

2016 Board and Committee Members

SESSION

2016	2017	2018
Nancy Cummings	Gary Geisinger	Gary Greene
Christian Fulkman	Dennis Jones	Jessica Halt
Brenda Hostetler	Brad Marshall	Ray Pence

DEACONS

2016	2017	2018
Florence Allison	Bonnie Glogowski	Nancy Bretz
Jean Chrobak	Lori Jones	Linda Canami
Evelyn Exley	Helen Ruby	Linda Feil
June Smith	Judy Stuhlmann	Tim Pogozelec

If you would like to serve on one of the following committees, please see the chairperson of that committee.
****Chairman***

Administration -- (Oversees church property and finances) ***2nd Monday of month @ 7:00 pm***
*Dennis Jones, Duane Boyles, Paul Cummings, Steve Fox, Gary Greene and Tim Smith

Christian Education – (Oversees Sunday School, Awana, Youth and VBS) ***2nd Thursday of month @ 6:30 pm***
*Christian Fulkman, Tracy Duffy, Collin Fulkman, Jackie Hall, Jessica Halt, Dawn Harris, Jocilyn Houk, Shirley Janoski, Kyle Jones and GayAnn Miller.

Evangelism – (Plans outreach and fellowship for spreading God's word) ***1st Thursday of month @ 6:30 pm***
*Nancy Cummings, Sandy Courson, Diana Halt, Beth Kendall, Ray Pence, Kim Runyan and Sally Withers

Interpretation and Mission – (Oversees church missions and their funding) ***2nd Monday of month @ 7:00 pm***
*Brenda Hostetler, Terri Emery, Brad and Marti Marshall, Debbie and Tim Pogozelec, Harry Riethmiller, Lori Smith and Judy Stuhlmann

Nominating -- (Seeks replacements for retiring Elders and Deacons)
Christian Fulkman, Diana Halt, Doug Houk, Dennis Jones, Sam Jones and Judy Stuhlmann

Personnel -- (Helps to maintain good working relationships with employes and congregation)
Gary Geisinger and Ray Pence

Worship – (Prepares for Communion, arranges greeters, outdoor service, in charge of banners etc.)
2nd Thursday of month @ 7:00 pm
*Amy Geisinger, Mary Beckman, Bob and Cindy Bell, Nancy Bretz, Lisa Craig, Debi Fynes, Donna Fox, Gary Geisinger, Angela Houk

Men's Ministry – Steve Fox, Chairman - meets 2nd Saturday of month @ 8:00 am at Riethmiller Lumber

Stephen Ministry – Judy Riethmiller and Diana Halt, co-directors

Vision Team – Judy Riethmiller, Pastor Doug, Doug Houk, Glenda Fulkman, Lisa Craig and Cindy Bell

Women's Association – Judy Riethmiller, Moderator

Doesn't a spa-themed getaway sound amazing?

Get away from the busyness of life as you relax with friends, share laughter and stories, and spend time with God. Join us at out Lavender Springs Spa retreat to experience all this and more!

Lavender Springs Spa is a relaxing spa-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. We'll be focusing on the book of Psalms and will be encouraged by God's faithfulness and love.

When: **Friday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.**
& will finish around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16.
This year we will furnish a light meal for those who will be coming after work or those who just will not have time for dinner. The 1st Session will begin at 7:30.
Where: **'The Castle-Life Ministries' in Franklin,** Pennsylvania
Cost: **Still only $55.00.** This covers 3 delicious meals, fun and refreshing activities, and comfortable lodging. **Schloarships are available.**
Make checks payable to: NB EPC Women's Assoc.
Last day to register will be Sunday April 10.
Who: All women ~ encourage everyone to join us!

Take time to relax, make new friends, worship, and draw closer to God. We hope you will join us at Lavender Springs Spa.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Home phone: _____

Cellphone: _____

Email address: _____

Allergies or other special needs: _____

Lavender Springs spa