Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

I am writing to let you know about a staff change in our church.

Jocilyn Houk, who has been our Student Youth Worker and then our Director of Youth Ministry for the past six years has made the decision to resign from her position. In early June Jocilyn let me know of her intention to resign. In late June she gave the Elders this letter of resignation….

Dear Session Members of New Bedford Evangelical Church,

I am writing this letter to inform you of my resignation from my position as Youth and Young Adult Director at the church. As many of you know, I recently got engaged and I've semi-recently started a new job at Butler County Community College as an academic advisor. Big changes are taking place! With this said, I feel the Lord is calling me in a new direction in my life.

It brings me great sadness to resign from this job: I could've never asked for a more life changing, spirit fulfilling opportunity. The best part about my gift from God was the relationships and memories I made with my kids. I am truly grateful for the opportunity I was given, and I can assure you it will never be forgotten.

It was a privilege and an honor to work with the youth of this church, and I'm humbled that you chose to entrust me with the task of leading them closer to the Lord. My last day of work will be August 18th.

Thank you all so much.

With Love,

Jocilyn Houk

Jocilyn came to the July Session meeting and shared this letter. We voted to accept her resignation with appreciation of her wonderful service. We want to express our thankfulness to Jocilyn for ministering to the youth of our church, she has truly impacted their lives with the love of Christ. On August 26th, between our services, we will have a reception to honor Jocilyn.

At this time I also want to look to our future. At the July Session meeting we voted to extend a job offer to Lee Harris to serve as our Director of Family Ministries. Allow me to share with you the wonderful workings of the Lord in this process.

About a year ago Lee approached me and shared with me that he was feeling the call of the Lord to go into full time ministry. The only people aware of this conversation was Lee, Dawn and myself. Lee and I at that time decided to enter into a season of prayer and seek the guidance of the Lord for Lee and for the church. This continued over many months.

For the first time, at the April Session meeting, I asked the Elders to join in this season of prayer. At our May Session meeting Lee shared with the Elders his sense of call. With great conviction and passion, he shared the working of the Lord in his life and his desire to serve the Lord in a full time capacity. We decided to continue in our season of prayer. As stated above, in early June Jocilyn informed us of her decision to resign. Our discussions with Lee had nothing to do with Jocilyn's decision. In our June Session meeting the Elders discussed the possibility of Lee taking over this position and expanding it to a full time position with additional ministry responsibilities.

If you remember about two years ago we were close to hiring a full time person as an "Assistant to the Pastor." We have had a vision of this positon for a number of years. At the June meeting the Session appointed a committee composed of Glenda Fulkman, Diane Bell and myself. The Committee was asked to write a Full Time Position Description. We realized if we did not want to have a gap in our ministry to our youth we had to move forward. We met together and wrote the Position Description. Session then had a special Session meeting to review the Position Description (it is too long to include in the letter but it is available to anyone upon request). Four primary areas of ministry are part of the Position Description. They are, continued ministry to our Middle School and High School young people, continued

ministry to our young adults, ministry to our young families, plan ministry and fellowship opportunities for our Senior Citizens. There also are additional tasks assisting the Pastor.

After Session had reviewed the Position Description they asked the Special Committee to interview Lee and go over the Position Description with him. This took place in the middle of July. Lee again shared his sense of call and shared some ideas to fulfill the Position Description. The Committee asked Lee to fill out a sheet of questions (testimony, strengths, weaknesses, methodologies of ministry, organizational skills, etc.) and submit a formal resume.

At the July Session Meeting the Elders were presented with the resume, the answered questions, the recommendation from the Committee to move forward with the hiring, and had an opportunity to again interview Lee. After his departure a thorough discussion was held. A long discussion was also held on the financial details of the position taking into account both Lee and the church.

The Session voted to offer Lee the job at a salary of $2750.00 per month. Lee will be responsible for his own health benefits (this was part of our discussions with Lee). This is about $1200.00 more per month than we were previously paying because we are going from ½ time to full time.

Lee has accepted this position and this salary package. We are excited to have Lee join our staff. We have been excited to see the hand of the Lord throughout this process.

We are in great need of your prayers. First pray for Jocilyn as she makes these "big moves" in her life. Pray for her wedding and her marriage. Pray as she moves to Canfield with Alex. Pray for the Youth Group kids. They love Jocilyn. Many have "grown up" with Jocilyn. It will be a difficult transition. Jocilyn has agreed to serve as a volunteer for a while to help the transition. Pray for Lee. Pray for the Lord's blessing on his ministry. Pray as the family adjusts to his new significantly lower income. Pray as Lee and Dawn look for health insurance for themselves and the boys. Pray for the "learning curve" that Lee will be going through on the new job. Finally give thanks to the Lord for His working in our church.

In Christ

Doug

Session Highlights

- Received and reviewed Financial Report.
- Approved a recommendation from Administration Committee to replace roof on Sunday School wing and the Kitchen (which has been leaking). Roof is believed to be about 30 years old. Bid approved (among four bids) was for $35,000.00. Fifty year shingles will be used. We will use both Building Fund and General Fund monies for this project.
- Approved $3830.00 to re-landscape the entranceway gardens of the church. Nancy Bretz and Cindy Bell are coordinating this project. Gift designated for this project (as well as the trees and yard landscaping) will be used.
- Received report from our director of children's Ministry (Dawn). Fall schedule and Sunday School organization was shared.
- Received a report from MOPS coordinator (Erika). Fall schedule was shared.
- Presented policy for Library books. The following books will be in the library: Adult-Christian/Religion Resource-Non Fiction, Christian Fiction, and Children-Christian and appropriate secular fiction/non-fiction.
- Heard report from Evangelism Committee. Members of the church will be asked to share a two to three minute testimony. The testimony will be recorded and shared with the congregation on Sunday mornings.
- Set the date of September 16th for the outdoor service.
- Received a report from our General Assembly Delegates.
- Conducted an interview of Lee Harris (see opening letter).

Words of Thanks

- Thank you to everyone who helped in the re-landscaping of the church. First, thank you to the individuals who donated the gifts that made these projects possible. Thank you to Colin Fulkman, Mike Costarell, John Book and Doug Runyan for the selection of and planting of the trees. Thank you to Bob Bell, Gary Greene, Tim Smith, Chuck Bell, Billy Ray Moore, and Doug Runyan for their labor. Thank you to Nick Moore, Jacob Moore, Sam Moore, Gabe Velesz for working hard as paid workers for the project. Finally, thank you to Nancy Bretz and Cindy Bell who designed the landscaping, selected the plants, and worked tirelessly every day on the project. By doing the work ourselves we saved thousands of dollars from the bids of landscaping companies.
- Thank you to the Mission committee for organizing and hosting the reception for Matt and Stacey Ayars.
- Congratulations to Stacey Ayars on the birth of Ben. Ben was born in their home in Haiti.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS. Many, many adults and teens were teachers and helpers. Under the leadership of Dawn many children grew in their knowledge and love of our Lord.

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On Sunday, August 26th in between Worship Services at 9:30am we will have a *Thank-You Reception* for Jocilyn!

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Outdoor Worship Service & Church Picnic



Our Outdoor Service will be held on Sunday, September 16th at 10:40a.m. There will be NO Early Worship Service on this day. Following the service will be our Church Picnic! The Worship Committee will be providing hot dogs, drinks and place settings. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

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Attention Ladies!! The Ladies Love & Laughter Breakfast will be September 15th from 9:30-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This is open to all women of the church and we encourage you to bring a friend! The Apple Castle will be giving a presentation. We are also asking each attendee to donate an item for the Women's Shelter. Supply lists will be next to the sign ups.

***"Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."* -Matthew 7:20**

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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, August 29th 5:30-6:30 to register for Awana, play games, meet the Awana Leaders and get an ice cream treat!

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MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will begin their 2018-19 meetings on Wednesday, September 12th. You can find a list of all 2018-19 meetings on our church website at newbedfordepchurch.org or printed in the Church entryway. For more information or questions, please see Erika Taylor.



NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Phone: 724-964-8055



Redeeming Times Newsletter
AUGUST 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

****SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: 8:00AM – 2:00PM****

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY