



Heavenly Whispers

New Beginnings Covenant Brethren Church (NBCBC)

Where everyone is welcome and Jesus is Lord!!

Newsletter Date:
4th Qtr 2023

Eleventh Edition
Design: Eddie Moser
Contributors: Lay Leaders
and Pastor Karen

Inside this issue:

Lay Leader Happenings:	
Karen's Korner	2
Emergency & Safety Team	2
Leadership Team Message	2
Worship Team	2
Lay Leader Happenings (contd):	
Board of Trustees	3
FMT Article	3
Information Tech	3
Children's Church	3
Communications	3
Church Events Schedule	4
New Members	5
Church Growth	5
Wisdom Article	5
Lay Leaders Listing	6
NBCBC Directory	7
Collage—Fall Faith Festival	8
NBCBC Christmas Activities	9
Good News Club Update	10
Baby dedications	11

**NBCBC Address/
Contact Info:**New Beginnings
Covenant Brethren Church
P.O. Box 669
Middletown, Md 21769
Contact: Pastor
Karen Grossnickle
<https://www.nb-cbc.org>

New Beginnings Covenant Brethren Church Mission & Vision Statement: (Matthew 28:19)
Making, growing, equipping and sending disciples of Jesus Christ to proclaim the kingdom of God.

New Beginnings First "Fall Faith Festival" - 10/7/2023



Though the day began rainy, cold and windy for the inaugural Fall Faith Festival, it ended up being a beautiful sunshining day with lots of good food, music, activities and lots of children who attended and enjoyed a great day.

1 Chronicles 15:16 (NIV) David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their fellow Levites as musicians to make a joyful sound with musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.

LAY LEADERSHIP HAPPENINGS

Karen's Korner, by Pastor Karen Here we are beginning a new year! Time is surely moving along at a very fast pace. As I reflect over these past few months and over this last year, I am humbled by what our Lord has done! He has brought us to a new place to worship, He has opened doors for ministry in new and exciting ways, He has walked with us through many tests and trials, and He has seen us through them all. We serve a **good good** Father and I am humbled by the fact that no matter who we are, no matter where we are, He sees and knows what we need. How can it be that a God who is so mighty, so amazing, so powerful even has mind of us!! But we know He does; He has been faithful to us every step of the way and I know He will continue to be. As the church explodes in the days ahead God is preparing us for a new beginning!! A new adventure with Him!! He will teach us and show us to go out and tell others about Him, to make disciples and learn how to walk alongside those who want to know Him better!! How exciting to follow Jesus!! How exciting to tell others about our Risen Lord!! How exciting to be on this journey with all of you!! I am honored and privileged and most of all blessed to work beside each and every one of you to further the kingdom of Jesus!! As the days unfold, I believe we will see God's hand move in mighty ways in our lives, in our church and in this nation!! Praise the Lord!! For He is good!!

Blessings to you all, Pastor Karen

Emergency & Safety Response Team by Jerry Fogle

After receiving valuable input from church leadership, the Emergency and Safety Response Team (ESRT) drafted a revision to the Emergency and Safety Action Plan (ESAP), Rev. 0, which covered use of facilities at the Amvets in Middletown and Burkittsville Ruritan in Burkittsville. Before the revision was finalized, New Beginnings (NBCBC) entered into a trial six-month lease at the Middletown Valley Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Since this was a new church facility to the congregation, a separate ESAP was drafted covering use of the SDA church. Both versions of the ESAP were approved by the Leadership Team in August 2023 and training on the documents was completed in September 2023. The ESRT will monitor the implementation of these plans and make any appropriate revisions when necessary. It is our goal to keep worship and other activities at NBCBC as safe as possible.

Leadership Team report by Kevin Fisher: The LT has worked hard this last quarter, confirming our new budget, renewal of contracts and leases, congregational meeting, and presenting "Tools of the Trade" training. We would like to thank Linda Grossnickle- Ifert and Kenton Grossnickle for serving on the LT. We would also like to welcome Cathy Hessong and Jerry Fogle to the LT. As we continue our work into the new year, please pray that God will show us the way and prepare us to make the right decisions. God bless!!!

Worship Team by Bernie Tregoe The Worship Team has a wonderful and dedicated team that have been serving as Worship Leader, Setup, singing, ushers for offering and playing musical instruments. We wish to welcome two new Worship Leaders, Kevin Delauter and Wayne Fisher to the team. We have been blessed with special music by Bob, Joe, Sierra and Shane of the Brown family, Curtis Knight and his son, Bethany Norris, Martha O'Brien, Joni Brossart, Tanya, Wayne and Angie, and others. It is so beautiful to see the saints answer the call of God. The team continues to explore the sound system in order to make better use of it's capabilities and to enhance worship service. Blessings to all.

Philippians 4:4 (NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

LAY LEADERSHIP HAPPENINGS (Cont'd)

Board of Trustees, Eddie Moser—Chair: The Trustees along with the Leadership team have negotiated a snow removal plan with the same contractor that MVSDA is using in the event we get a snow storm on Saturday evening and we may be able to have service on Sunday morning. This activity will be coordinated with the SDA contact Paul Bauer as needed.

Financial Management Team by Tammy Fisher: First of all, I would like to thank the FMT for their dedication and commitment to NBCBC and for being good stewards of the church's money. Ruthie, Wayne, Kathy and Glenn – it's been a pleasure working beside you this year and I look forward to continuing to work together this year.

We ended the financial year on a pretty high note. We budgeted \$91,500 for general offering and ended the year with a total of \$108,102; \$16,602 over budget. Thank you to our generous congregation!

We did go slightly over our budgeted expenses. Expenses were budgeted at \$92,406 and at year end our expenses came in at \$96,144; \$3,738 over budget. \$1,950 of the overage is due to moving to SDA and the increase in the monthly rent expense. Also, we opted to pay for the January training sessions in 2023 as to not affect the 2024 budget so \$1,000 of the overage is for that training expense. The remaining \$788 of the expense overage is due to miscellaneous items that came in higher than we had budgeted such as music licenses, CBC conference fees and office supplies. Music and Worship, Fellowship, Deacons, Outreach and Hospitality all remained well under their budgeted expenses for the year by a combined total of \$2,500!

There was a total of \$31,406 contributed to the building fund in 2023. In July, we opened a CD and deposited \$120,000 of the building fund. To date, that account has earned \$2,236 in interest. We also deposited \$5,333 of the building fund into an accessible money market account. That account has earned \$154 in interest. The total in the building fund accounts as of December 31 is \$134,553.98.

Information Technology by Eddie Moser: We continue to learn how to better use the sound system at the church for service enhancement. We are also employing a camera to monitor the entry after the doors are locked so any late comers can be let in. SDA has removed a number of items from the sound booth so we will need to find out their intentions and inquire about some further training.

Children's Church by Pastor Karen

The Christian Education Team has done an amazing job this year! We have such dedicated teachers and the children just love going to children's church every Sunday! We are blessed to have those who feel called to teach our children, telling them about Jesus and showing them what it is like follow him.

Communications: We are into the winter months so please stay tuned on Sunday mornings to email and Facebook for announcements concerning church being held. We hope to announce church status by 7:00 am for each event. For those of you who do not have access to or use either form of media, rest assured your name is on a "call list" to be notified of cancellations. Also, don't forget the online calendar found on our website www.nb-cbc.org is being maintained so you can easily see what is scheduled when and where for the current month. Along with the online calendar, Terri also provides copies of a monthly calendar to help with your planning and scheduling of church related activities.

1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV) But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

Remember the Date

New Beginnings Covenant Brethren Church – Calendar

12/31/2023

Standing Meetings

Financial Management Team Meeting	1 st Tuesday	6:30 pm	Each Month	Tammy Fisher, FMT Chair
Deacon’s Meeting	TBD	6:00 pm	Each Month	Pastor and Deacons
Leadership Team Meeting	2 nd Monday	6:30 pm	Each Month	Kevin Fisher, LT Chair
Christian Education Meeting	3 rd Monday		Each Month	Pastor Karen & Team Chair
Team Chairs & LT Meeting	7/3	11:30	Quarterly	Kevin Fisher, LT Chair
Worship Team Meeting	Thursdays	12:30	Twice Monthly	Bernie Trego

Classes	Location	Date/Day	Time	Event Organizer
Ladies’ Bible Study	Lutheran Church	Wednesdays	9 - 10:30 am	Cathy Hessong
Men’s Bible Study	Eddie Moser’s	Tuesdays	6 - 7:30 pm	Eddie Moser
Young Adult Bible Study	SDA	Alt Thursdays	6:30 - 8:00 pm	Kenton, Joseph & Ingrid
Come Alive Prayer	SDA	Friday	12:30 - 1:30	Darlene & Pastor Karen

2023 Events Schedule

Newsletter Publications	3/31, 6/30, 9/30, 12/31			Eddie/Lay Leaders
Maundy Thursday Service	4/6/2023	6:30 pm	Burkittsville Ruritan	Pastor Karen
Easter Worship Service	4/9/2023	9:30 am	Amvets Event Room	Pastor Karen
Congregational Business Meeting	5/7/2023 (Est)	11:15	Twice Annually	Moderator, Pastor Linda
Congregational Business Meeting	5/28/2023	11:15	Vote on Seventh-day Adventist move	Kevin Fisher LT
Fellowship Meal	7/9/2023	11:30	Immediately after Church Service	
CBC Annual Conference	7/20—7/22	Various	Fairmont State University	
Baptism and picnic	8/12/2023	4:00 & 5:00	Doub’s Woods Park, Myersville	
Evening of Prayer on the Hill	9/2/2023	6:00 pm	Dale Haines’ Hill	Deacons & Pastor Karen
Fall Faith Festival	10/7/2023	12 - 4:00	Burkittsville Ruritan	Worship Team
Afternoon of Prayer	10/28/2023	1 - 3:00	Dales Haines’ Hill	Deacons & Pastor Karen
Congregational Business Meeting	11/5/2023	11:15	Twice Annually	Moderator, Pastor Bill Caputo
Christmas Dinner	12/16/2023	1:00pm		Western Sizzlin, Hagerstown
Love Feast	TBD		Twice Annually	Pastor Karen & Deacons
Communion	TBD	4X/Year	Times Annually	Pastor Karen & Deacons
Fellowship Meal (Postponed)	12/31/2023	11:30am	New Members	Pastor Karen & Fellowship

2024 Events Schedule

Deacon’s Meeting	1/17/2024	6:00	Pastor Karen	Deacons and Pastor Karen
Communion (4 times per year)	1/21/2024	10:50	During service	Deacon’s and Pastor
Evening of Remembrance & Healing	2/25/2024	6:00	SDA Church	
Maundy Thursday/Love Feast	3/28/2024	6:00	SDA Church	Deacons & Pastor
Easter Sunday	3/31/2024	9:30	SDA Church	Pastor Karen
Congregational Business Mtg (Tentative)	5/5/2024	11:15	Church Business	LT & Moderator
CBC Conference & Worship Meeting	7/18—7/20/2024		Chiques Church, Manheim, PA	CBC Executive Bd
Congregational Business Mtg (Tentative)	11/3/2024	11:15	Elections etc	LT & Moderator
Tools of the Trade	1/13 thru 2/3 Saturdays		10—1:00 pm	Myersville Firehall

**We are on: Facebook, YouTube, & email: look for us as New Beginnings Church
Our website: www.nh-cbc.org**

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



New Beginnings is growing:

On December 31, 2023, three more regular attendees made the decision to join the church and work along side their brothers and sisters who are already members as well as many who are not members who labor for Him. Those joining were: Ingrid Sanders, Amanda Farmer and husband Jeffrey Farmer. Welcome to the fold and may God bless you in your labors for the Lord.

New Beginnings CBC

started in the fall of 2019 with 12 members after the split from Harmony CoB and formed the existing congregation. After meeting in Thurmont CoB for a while, Dale Haines field all summer during 2020, Amvets for 2 plus years, and now at Middletown Valley Seventh Day Adventist since June of 2023, we are now 56 in number. Along the way Pastor Karen became an ordained CBC minister, NBCBC became a CBC approved congregation, and God has blessed us with His grace and mercy. Our growth is completely attributed to God and His Holy Word!! Praise God for His Love and Faithfulness.

Wisdom: The World's or God's? by Eddie Moser

A wise man once said "a wise man will change his mind but a fool never will." Have you ever given that statement any thought? I have from time to time and have found this to be a true axiom. A fool may know he is making the wrong decision but will make it anyway due to pride and just plain not wanting to be wrong amongst his peers. The Bible says true wisdom comes only from God and that everyone is born into sin and therefore separated from God and devoid of wisdom. So how do we gain wisdom?? By asking God for it. Solomon, one of the smartest and richest men ever to live, didn't ask for worldly riches when he was in conversation with God, he asked for wisdom. You see, God freely provides wisdom to those who ask for it and follow him. Notice that last part, "those who follow Him." What that equates to is accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior, repenting of our sins and rejecting the world's wisdom and ways and following Jesus Christ daily. Did you notice God's wisdom is "free", it doesn't cost anything EXCEPT giving your life to Jesus. God makes it very clear that those who do not ask for and practice wisdom from God and His word are fools (Prov:14:9). So how do we grow in God's wisdom?? We read His word daily, meditate upon it, and seek to learn of His will and way for our lives. Then when we are faced with important decisions we are wise and make a Godly and right decision. Wouldn't you rather be labeled a wise Christian and fool for God than a foolish man who is lost and full of foolishness? I would!!

Children's Church by Wendy Drum: The Children, God's Children, gathered over the last quarter to learn, sing, and pray about Jesus. We have reviewed stories in the Old and New Testament, the Ark of the Covenant, the 12 tribes, the 12 Disciples, and the meaning of Advent as we patiently awaited the birth of our Savior.



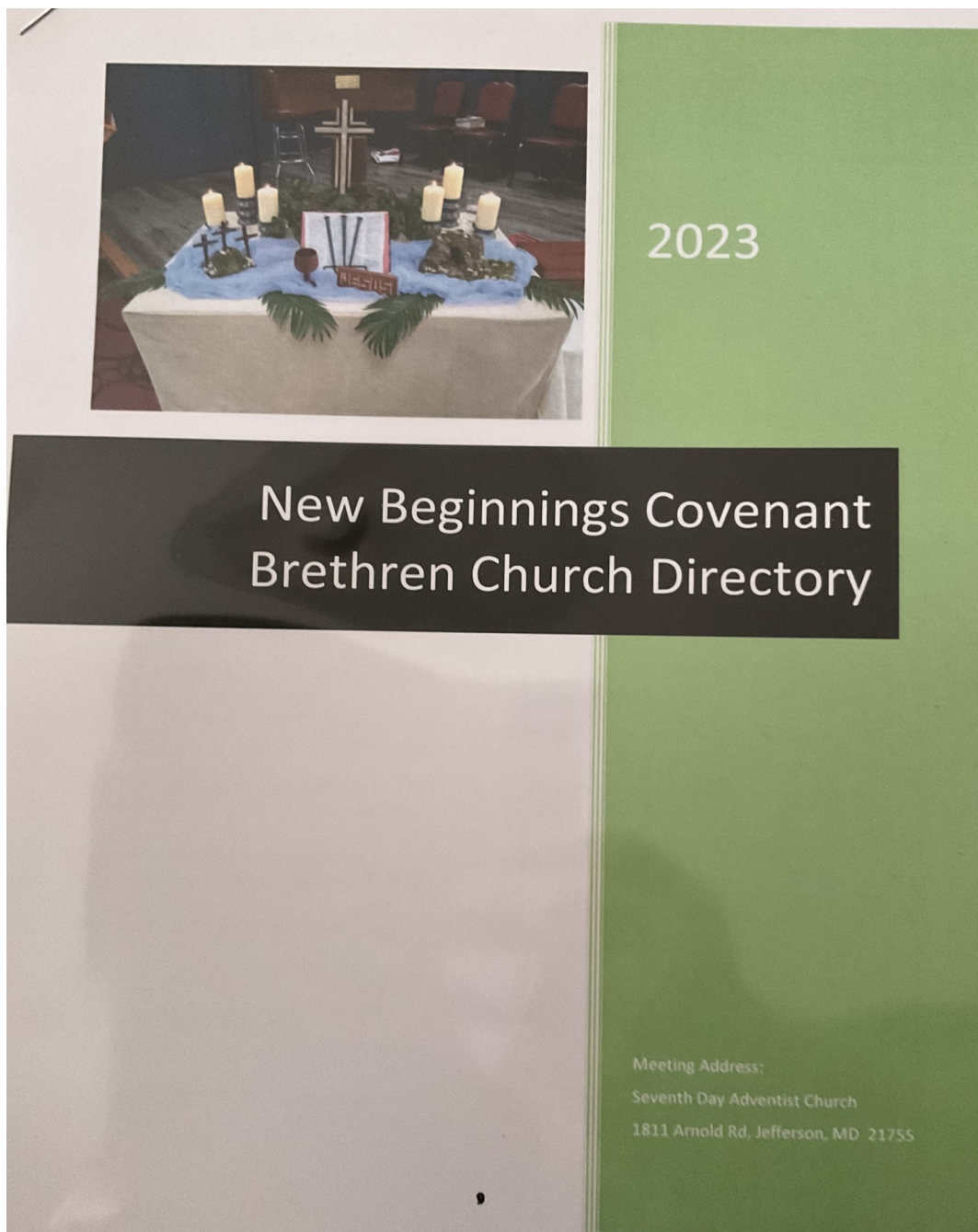
Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus we lit the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love and brought the new year in with the celebration of Epiphany. They were able to share their love for song with the congregation too as they sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and "God made the Mountains High".

We are excited to move into a New Testament series on Paul's journeys and enter the Lenten season with reverence. The children read scripture, color, make crafts, sing, worship and pray together. Please pray for our children, those here and far to know him and grow personally in relationship with our Lord. We give thanks and glory for sending the children to learn, follow, and carry the light into the world.

All children are welcome to join Sunday mornings during worship for more adventures through the Bible. At any time during the service the nursery to the rear of the sanctuary is available as needed for quiet space. It is equipped with a pew, a rocking chair, a window and a speaker so the message can be both seen and heard. During a designated time in the worship service, children are dismissed from the sanctuary with a teacher(s) and invited to attend downstairs in the Sunday School room. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and friends in playing a critical role in your children's Christian education. The Good News Club is a wonderful time to share our love for the Lord. It meets Monday afternoon at the Middletown Primary School with over 20 children. Thank you for all your continued support and prayers for both the children and teachers of this ministry. Blessings to all. If you have questions or would like to help, please reach out to Wendy Drum at 240-409-8635 or Gloria Green at 240-446-0421.

sanctuary is available as needed for quiet space. It is equipped with a pew, a rocking chair, a window and a speaker so the message can be both seen and heard. During a designated time in the





The First NBCBC Directory was released for distribution on December 3, just in time for Christmas card preparation and mailing. Although it is not perfect, several mistakes uncovered after publication, it is a start towards our community of faith being able to better communicate amongst each other and to have a quick snap shot of the church leadership organization at your fingertips. Maybe when the next edition is merited, we can concentrate on having pictures taken to go along with the contact information listing for each person...we shall see what God has in mind whenever we do an update. In the meantime, it is hoped that this will be useful to one and all. Eddie Moser, author of this first edition.

Acts 2:46 (NIV) Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Fall Faith Festival Collage.



The Browns Singing



Lots of good food was provided by the fellowship team for all to enjoy on a donation basis. (Soup, sandwiches, chips, cookies, etc). Thank You.



The Prayer Tent



Free Popcorn



Face Painting



Kid's Korner



Kids Activities

Christmas at NBCBC



Some of the activities at NBCBC this Christmas Season: Collection of gifts for two needy families, the Outreach Team blessing those gifts and recipients, wrapping the gifts, our children singing “Go Tell It On The Mountain” at Christmas and collections of Christmas cards for church families (nice idea to save stamp monies). A wonderful celebration of Christ’s birth was enjoyed by all participating. Add in the wonderful seasonal sermons by our Pastor Karen along with glorious music led by Bernie and team and I’m not sure we could have asked for a better Christmas celebration.....and in a REAL church this year. God has provided many blessings to his faithful.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



NBCBC Good News Club at Middletown Primary School 2023-24: They are happy, faithful in attending and are enjoying learning about God and His son Jesus. Praise God for making a way to enter this public school and teach the children....who knows what impacts their little lives may be having in their home environments. What a mighty God we serve!!!

Good News Club by Ronda Whitmore:

The GNC would like to Thank New Beginnings for their continued support and prayers. It's working and to God be the Glory. The club averages about 21 kids. In the last month we have been able to pray for many of the kids and have seen 2 of our kids come to the Lord. Thank you Jesus! As the team continues to be led by the Holy Spirit, we have been blessed by what God is doing. The oneness of this team is amazing. Again, thank you Church for your support that lets us go and share the Gospel to these children. The children are also sharing with the staff about the club and they are stopping by to see what's going on. Praise be to God.
Love in Jesus, Ronda

Psalms 34:11 (NIV) Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord .



Family picture when Laralyn Adams was dedicated to the Lord by her family with Pastor Karen performing the honors. Congratulations to the family for this new addition and to the NBCBC church family for accepting the responsibility of helping disciple this young'un.



Baby Dedication: What a very important aspect of personal family life, church life and in the life of God's family. These little ones, just like their brothers and sisters, receive God's blessings as well as the promises of the parents and church family to raise these children in the way of the Lord. TJ and Leah and Matthew and Carissa are blessed to have such beautiful families and to recognize they need and want the help of their church family to raise their children to love Jesus and honor God. Congratulations and Glory to God for this decision. The angels in heaven rejoiced all during these services and will certainly provide protection and love during the rearing process of these beautiful children. "Jesus loves the little children....."



Luke 2:22 (NIV) When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord