

# THE BETHEL BREEZE

Bethel United  
Methodist Church

Winter 2017

## The Bethel Church Pond Gets Spruced Up!

Article and photos contributed by Evelyn Kerr

The Church Pond is one of the unique features of the Bethel United Methodist property. Over the years, however, it became clear that several dead trees needed to be cut down and hauled away. There were also repairs to be made to the pond dike, and drainage issues to take care of.

So on March 3, 2016 representatives from Bethel Church met with Ralph Porterfield who builds ponds. He suggested the group talk to Clint Brown and Sons about the job for our pond as Brown had smaller equipment that would be easier to fit into our pond's situation.

Kevin Snyder cut the trees down on April 29, 2016. It took approximately 3 weeks for the church crew to clean up the mess. Those who helped



were Ron Kerr, Elwin Kerr, Rusty Kerr, Lloyd Drake, Clark Hall, Howie Knapp, Jacob Knapp, David Ohmer, who rents the parsonage, and his two young sons. Twenty-eight loads of firewood were hauled away.

The logs were sold to Jerry Miller, an Amish saw mill

operator. Jeff Snyder hauled the logs to his mill on May 9.

An estimate was received from Clint Brown and Sons for repairing the pond dike, installing an inlet water level control structure, removing stumps and installing surface water drainage along the embankment.

Due to scheduling, the Browns were unable to get started until August 25. They finished the job around Sept 6. They also seeded and mulched the banks.

The pond looks great and is much healthier. Once the snow melts and spring comes along, be sure to stop by and see it for yourself. Many thanks to all who helped!



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### SUNDAY SCHOOL

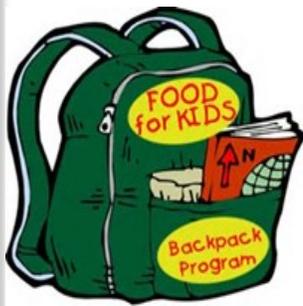
at 10:15 am

WORSHIP

at 11:15 am

Fellowship dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month following the worship service.





***Can you help us fill LoveINC backpacks so needy children will have food for the weekends? If you can help out, here are some items needed:***

**Juice boxes**

**Cereal**

**Oatmeal**

**Soup**

**Easy Mac**

**Crackers**

**Fruit Snack**

**Pudding**

**Chefboyardees**

**Fruit Cups**

***Please leave items in the box in the sanctuary.***

**Thank you!**

## *From the Pastor's Pen . . .*

Bethel Church is a landmark on the road to Titusville. It is something folks remember as they travel north and south from Spartansburg and Titusville. My first sighting of Bethel was one day long ago as we traveled south. It made me think how special it looked, how warm and inviting it looked with its pretty, white siding and the picturesque pond across the road. I thought it must be a very special place to go to church. It never crossed my mind that I would ever be part of that pretty, little church with the pond. But God calls to places and situations we may not have thought possible. God has a way of giving us glimpses of places or people that will impact us in the future but we are unaware of their significance. I think Jesus first disciples might

have thought about the promised savior from God but never imagined they'd be called to be part of his ministry.

Over the last several weeks we have been hearing lessons from Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount. In the scriptures from Matthew 5 Jesus is teaching his disciples what they need to know as they begin their journey as followers of Christ. I am sure Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John never imagined they would be sitting at the feet of the Savior of the world preparing for a ministry and not yet sure what that meant. They just followed Jesus and listened. They listened to the message of God in a way they had never experienced. It was probably exciting, overwhelming and exhilarating all at the same time. They listened. They learned. They

wondered what Jesus might have planned for them going forward. But most of all they trusted him to teach them and encourage them as they moved toward being fishers of men.

In that Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught his new disciples about living a new life committed to God and the blessings of having attitudes filled with love and faith. The disciples had no idea what was ahead yet they willingly chose to go where Jesus led. We have all been called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Some of us have had a glimpse of possibilities and wonderings. In spite of the unknown we are called to trust God. The disciples trusted Jesus and were transformed. Are we willing to take that step and follow God trusting in his promise to bless us? His great invitation is there. His hand is outstretched. Will you follow?

Blessings,

***Pastor Janet***

## ***Notes from the Church Council Meeting***

Church Council met on January 29th after the monthly fellowship dinner for reports and to plan activities for the spring and summer seasons.

The Treasurer's report was given by Evelyn Kerr, who serves as Finance Chair.

The Trustees had asked the UMW to select samples of floor covering for the kitchen. Several were brought to look at and compare. A choice will soon be made and the work will be done this spring.

The Education/Worship Committee reported that Vacation Bible School will

be held again this summer. A theme will be selected and postcards will be sent to children who have attended in the last few years.

It was decided that a Memorial Day Committee from Bethel Church will plan and carry out the Memorial Day Service since it has been difficult to coordinate with other churches. Anyone who wishes to help with this event is encouraged to speak to Pastor Janet.

Members of Bethel Church are interested in participating in the mission project of packing meals for countries where they are needed. This is an endeavor

that needs the cooperation of several churches. The Titusville Ministerium may be willing to coordinate this.

On Ash Wednesday, Mar. 1, a noon soup and sandwich luncheon will be held along with a short devotional service. All three churches in the charge, and anyone else who wishes, will be invited to attend.

Pastor Janet would like to have a small group from each church in the charge participate in a Lenten study. The book she has chosen for the study is *Thank God It's Friday* by William Willimon. Come and join us!

## Our New Bishop Honored As Woman of Excellence



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi was one honored at a downtown Pittsburgh luncheon on Friday, Jan. 6 as one of the New Pittsburgh Courier's 2017 Women of Excellence.

The honor recognizes African

American women who are leaving lasting marks by making great strides in their professions and positively impacting their communities. The honorees, who were selected from nominations sent in by the newspaper's readership, have made significant contributions and achievements.

"We are very pleased to recognize this year's Women of Excellence honorees. We have a top-notch list of individuals from various professions and community organizations whom exude strength, leadership and courage, and have earned the merit," said Rod Doss, editor and publisher of the New Pittsburgh Courier. "We congratulate them, and thank them for their talent and dedication to making this region a better place for all."

The Courier noted: "Though only having come to the Pittsburgh area four months ago, as the bishop of United Methodists in Western Pennsylvania, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi exerts a lot of influence and she is doing so to further her vision of a diverse church that embraces justice and the life-saving love of Christ."

*The New Pittsburgh Courier is one of the oldest and most prestigious Black newspapers in the United States, with a rich and storied history. Established in 1907 by Edwin Harleston, a guard in the H. J. Heinz food-packing plant, the Pittsburgh Courier was once the country's most widely circulated black newspaper with a national circulation of almost 200,000 and 16 regional editions.*



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered

with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

The history of Lent as a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for Easter can be traced back to the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. Until the 600s, Lent began on Quadragesima (Fortieth) Sunday, but Gregory the Great (c.540-604) moved it to a Wednesday, now called Ash Wednesday, to secure the exact number of 40 days in Lent. Gregory, who is regarded as the father of the medieval papacy, is also credited with the ceremony that gives the day its name. As Christians came to the church for forgiveness, Gregory marked their foreheads with ashes reminding them of the biblical symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes) and mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you will return." (Gen 3:19).

*Come and join us  
for the*

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
LUNCHEON AND  
DEVOTIONAL TIME**

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**Bethel United**

**Methodist Church**

**Soup and sandwiches will  
be served immediately**

**following a brief**

**Ash Wednesday service**

**Bethel United Methodist  
Church**

## **Bethel United Methodist Church**

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**Sunday Worship**

**11:15 am**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## *More Pond Photos*

*Photos by Evelyn Kerr*

