

## **From the Pastor**

As I've shared recently, I love October for many reasons, but foremost among them is it's the month of our wedding anniversary. Linda and I were married in 1980 in a rustic log cabin church on a rainy afternoon in the New Jersey woods, but the weather didn't matter at all. The day held a special glow all its own regardless of the monsoon outside.

On the day we were married I not only knew, but publicly declared that I loved Linda. But did I really know how deeply I loved her? Over the years and trials, fights and making up, struggling and striving together, being there for her and having her there for me, we have just started to learn the depth of love.

All of the joys and sorrows, issues and conflicts over the years and the many yet to come, increase our faith in, and our love for, one another. Among the many points I like to make to those who come to First Bethel to be married is this - increasing your love...is a process.



Increasing your faith is a process as well.

When, in Luke 17, the disciples exclaimed to Jesus, "Increase our faith!" they demonstrated that they didn't quite understand things yet. Jesus couldn't flip a switch and give them a real, authentic faith. Faith that lasts, that stretches and bends with the circumstances of life is born of a relationship. It's developed during a lifelong walk with Jesus through the hills and the valleys of life, during sunny days of beautiful fall colors and the darker, stormier times as well.

Accompany me as we grow together in faith. Join our Prayer and Practice Study group as we discover new and ancient ways to experience God's love, to encounter the Lord and hear God's guidance. Be diligent in worship and come with the expectation that God is going to nudge you, inspire you, support or correct you.

Serve others and perceive what others have found – God will meet you through your care of those in need.

Like a good marriage, the day-by-day walk with Jesus will bless you in ways you can't begin to realize. But it's worth the journey, each and every day.

God bless you!

Pastor Tom

## **Stewardship**

So, What is this Stewardship Campaign REALLY About?

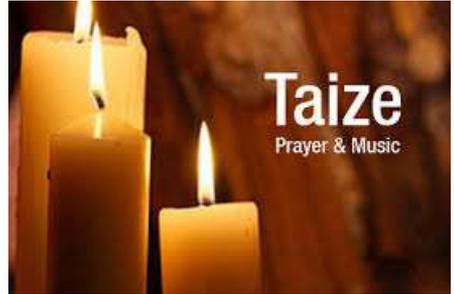
Ideally this campaign offers each of us a chance to look at where we are in our Faith journey. That's why we're emphasizing the promises we all made when we joined First Bethel. Supporting First Bethel "with our prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness" should NOT be another obligation we have to find time & energy to fulfill. Rather, they're what Methodism's founder, John Wesley called the "Means of Grace," ways we can all grow as individuals and as a community of Faith. And yes, giving financial gifts is one of these ways, so we'll be asking for a pledge for 2017. This really helps with planning for ministry.



So, please join us this October as we explore the ways we're trying to live out our promises, and grow in our Faith. We'll be celebrating our renewed commitment on Sun, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> with one service at 10 AM and Brunch. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Taize Prayer Services**

Want a deeper experience with God? For the last several decades thousands of Christians and seekers from all parts of the world have discovered the presence of God in fresh and replenishing ways through the contemplative worship services that have grown out of the Protestant monastic community in Taize, France.



We have introduced these deeply spiritual services to First Bethel and I encourage everyone to attend and experience a most unique expression of worship. You will have opportunities to experience the presence of God through meditative music, Scripture readings and moments of silence and reflection. The Taizé service is a wonderful way discover inner stillness and peace in the midst of our busy and raucous lives. There's no sermon or offering taken (let the cheering begin!) – rather it seeks to create a place of peace within our hearts for God to dwell and speak. Our next Taize Prayer service is Tuesday October 18 at 7:30 p.m.

## **Prayer & Practice**

The first Adult Study of the fall will be on the subject of prayer, a Christian's vital link to God and the source of power and guidance for our lives.



**Together we will learn and practice various types of prayer that have enriched the lives of millions for over 2000 years!**

Be a part of this learning laboratory and discover fresh ways to encounter God. The Sessions continue on Wednesdays at 6:45 in the parlor. Join us!

## **Music Notes!**

Our musicians are glad to be back making music together after a much needed rest over the summer. Well, not everyone rested! A good number of folks used their talent to provide us with special music in worship throughout the summer. Thanks go to: Jessica

**MAKE A JOYFUL**



Best, Grace Passios, Dixie Schaffer, Dorrie Walter, Dale Hertrick, Lorna Schlutz, Jeff Leonhardt, Lisa Rulong and Ann Wright Rose, Krista Carr, Pam Bright, Ruth Zito, Sarah Kobylnski, and Michael Krut.

We have begun rehearsals, but would welcome new people in any of our groups - Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, and Angels of God (Kids' Choir). We will be working to put together Youth Bells.

If you need information or have questions, contact Ruth Finlay. We would love to have you!

## **Martha Circle**

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM in the Susanna Wesley Room.

We are working on our role in the church - helping with shepherds' gifts each month, bringing in items each month for SHIM and doing whatever else comes our way to help someone.

*~God's love is with us as we work together for him.*



## **Library News!**

The First Bethel Library now has **7 Women -- And the Secrets of Their Greatness** by noted author *Eric Metaxas*.

The book (which followed the publication of **7 Men**, also in the Library) features the captivating stories of these extraordinary women:



French heroine/martyr *Joan of Arc*; “Mother of Methodism” *Susanna Wesley*; writer/philanthropist *Hannah More*; *Sister Maria Skobtsova* (Saint Maria of Paris); *Corrie ten Boom*, who helped Jews escape

the Nazi Holocaust; *Rosa Parks*, who refused to surrender her seat on an Alabama bus and became an American civil rights legend; and *Mother Teresa*, considered one of the great humanitarians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and recently declared a saint by the Catholic Church.

A publisher’s note says Metaxas, writing in “his trademark conversational and engaging style,” reveals in this 256-page volume how the seven women “achieved their greatness, inspiring readers to lives shaped by the truth of the Gospel.”

Metaxas also wrote **Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy**, a book that has been popular among First Bethel readers.

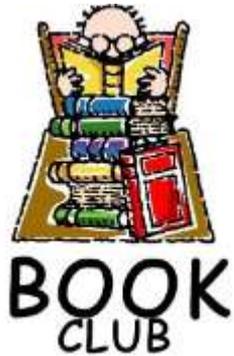
In **7 men**, Metaxas wrote about *George Washington*, *William Wilberforce*, *Eric Liddell*, *Jackie Robinson*, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, *Pope John Paul II* and *Chuck Colson*.

## Book 'Em!

**Book Club** will meet Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. at Panera's in the South Park Shops. We will discuss *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Here is a description of the book from Amazon.com:

*We are in the center of Paris, in an elegant apartment building inhabited by bourgeois families. Renée, the concierge, is witness to the lavish but vacuous lives of her numerous employers. Unbeknownst to her employers, Renée is a cultured autodidact who adores art, philosophy, music, and Japanese culture. With humor and intelligence she scrutinizes the lives of the building's tenants, who for their part are barely aware of her existence.*

*Then there's Paloma, a twelve-year-old genius. She is ... a talented and startlingly lucid child who has decided to end her life on the sixteenth of June, her thirteenth birthday. Until then she will continue behaving as everyone expects her to behave: a mediocre pre-teen high on adolescent subculture, a good but not an outstanding student, an obedient if obstinate daughter.*



*Paloma and Renée hide both their true talents and their finest qualities from a world they suspect cannot or will not appreciate them. They discover their kindred souls when a wealthy Japanese man named Ozu arrives in the building. Only he is able to gain Paloma's trust and to see through Renée's timeworn disguise to the secret that haunts her. This is a moving, funny, triumphant novel that exalts the quiet victories of the inconspicuous among us.*

Join us for a discussion of the book. Even if you haven't read the book, the book club is always a great place to pick up recommendations about books that others are reading. Also, the club is always open to suggestions for new books to read. New members are always welcome.

Looking Ahead: November – *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins  
December – *To Be Determined*  
January, 2017 – *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell



Join in on all the fun  
Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:00  
\*Costume Contests \* Trunk Decorating Contests \*  
Crafts\* Games \*

Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to  
SHIM and Treats to distribute to all our friends

Please RSVP to Kings School Kids Office  
by  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
412-835-6141

If you are interested in being a helper,  
please see Miss. Lynda



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### *It's that time again!*



All members are invited to the 2016 Church Conference on Monday October 24 at 7:00 pm here at First Bethel Church. We will receive reports from various committees, make plans for the new year and elect officers as well. Joining us will be District Superintendent Paul Taylor and the people of 3 other local United Methodist Churches.

## **Be a Blessing and Be Blessed**

By the time you read this, First Bethel will be registered for our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Appalachia Service Project mission trip. Although it's nine months away, we're already preparing and planning.

We're also looking for more volunteers to join us in this relationship building ministry with construction on the side. Registration forms will be available soon, but meanwhile here is some information in case you're wondering what it's all about and how you might be a blessing to an Appalachian family.



ASP is open to all. If you're a youth that's graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or an adult over 25 willing to serve as a Group Leader, or an adult with some basic construction understanding, you are welcome! Church membership is not required. The ideal work crew is 7 volunteers with a minimum of 2 Adult Group Leaders per crew. We are hoping to send at least three work crews in June 2017.

ASP is a Christian ministry that works to eradicate substandard housing in Central Appalachia. The focus is on building relationships, and transforming lives, including yours. Homes are made **Warmer. Safer. Drier.**

**“Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape”**. Things at ASP are well planned, but things can change quickly and often (just ask anybody that has gone on an ASP trip). Remember to bring patience and remain flexible and things may not go as *you* planned, but as God intended.

Participate, don't anticipate. If you go on ASP, go with an open heart and an open mind. Take advantage of all that ASP has to offer while you serve. **Connect. Build. Transform.**

Do not let money or lack of construction experience be a limiting factor. If you are willing and able to serve, we need you to serve with us. There are many opportunities for fundraising and scholarships, and we need people with a variety of gifts to share.

There will be much more information about ASP in the coming months, but if you want more details, please contact Gloria Stephan at [gstephan57@gmail.com](mailto:gstephan57@gmail.com) or the church office at 412-835-0700 or [FBUMC@verizon.net](mailto:FBUMC@verizon.net).

Abundant blessings will surely follow.

## **Nursing Home Christmas Project**

My grateful thanks to all of you who contributed 3" x 3" jewelry boxes for the ladies' bracelets last year. I need more 3" x 3" jewelry boxes for this year's jewelry project, at least 62. The men will be receiving socks this year, which will not require boxes.



When you're shopping this season please keep in mind Macy's in South Hills Village, Treasure Hunt on route 19 in Mt. Lebanon, and Jared's Jewelers on Fort Couch Road as all of these businesses made contributions to this Christmas project last year. This year I will cover the receiving box in the narthex with Christmas paper to make it more noticeable.

Thank you for your support as we all try to keep Christ in Christmas again this year!

~ Doris Woll

## **Coffeehouse Service** **begins November 5!**

Our new Coffeehouse worship experience will begin on Saturday Nov. 5 in Founders Hall at 6:00 pm. This new, casual service will feature great music by church members and friends, cookies, biscotti, beverages and more on café tables complete with tablecloths and candles! Enjoy the creative talent of our members as we display their photography, crafts, quilts, and other forms of artwork, too!

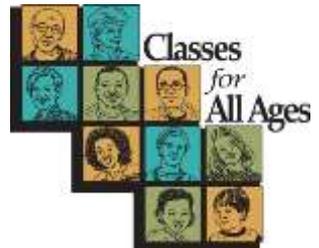


Don't miss this warm, friendly, and informal monthly service!

## **Sunday School at First Bethel!**

Want to help change the world? Bring your children to Sunday School, and join other growing adults too! We're excited to offer the following classes during the fall at 10:00 a.m.

- Pre-K with Amy Zeminski
- Grades 1 & 2 with Brittany Barnicott
- Grades 3 & 4 with Breann Thompson
- Grades 5 to 8 with Brenda Sullivan
- Grades 9 to 12 with Shauna Bowser
- Adults – FaithLink with Mike Stephan



## **A Place for YOUTH! -**

More than just a place to have fun, The Youth Ministry of First Bethel Church gives teens a chance to develop their faith, offering a place where young people can discuss important issues, while providing an opportunity for interaction with Christian adults. ALL YOUNG PEOPLE in grades 6-12 are welcome to experience what God is doing here at First Bethel!

- Oct. 2      Corn Maze & Bonfire at Simmons Farm - 2 pm
- Oct. 15     Go Karts at Wildwood Highlands – 4 pm
- Oct. 23     Leaf Raking for Shut-ins – 2 pm
- Nov. 12     Camp Allegheny/Flight 93 Memorial Trip – 8 am
- Nov. 25     Lock-in at Church
- Dec. ??     Progressive Dinner & Gift Exch. – Date TBA
- Jan. 13     Snow Tubing –Time TBA
- Jan. 28     Escape Room Adventure – Time TBA

## **O Blest Communion...**

In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.



## **Our True Identity**

*Twenty years ago, the great Christian spiritual teacher, Henri Nouwen passed away, but he has left us an abundance of wisdom to guide our daily lives. To honor and remember Nouwen, please give this some prayerful thought:*

“Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the “Beloved.” Being the Beloved expresses the core truth of our existence. ...

Your true identity is as a child of God. This is the identity you have to accept. Once you have claimed it and settled in it, you can live in a world that gives you much joy as well as pain. You can receive the praise as well as the blame that comes to you as an opportunity for strengthening your basic identity, because the identity that makes you free is anchored beyond human praise and blame.”

- Henri Nouwen

### **Conference Leadership**

**Bishop** - Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
**District Superintendent** - Paul Taylor

### **First Bethel Staff**

**Pastor** - Rev. Tom Barnicott  
**Interim Finance Administrator** - Karen Betler  
**Church Administrative Assistant** - Joan Straitiff  
Music Director - Ruth Finlay  
Organist - Phil Himmler  
**Director of KSK & Children's Fellowship** - Lynda Pore  
**KSK Office Administrator** - Charlene Phillips  
**Director of Maintenance** - Jim Howells  
**Custodian** – Bill Black

## **Been "thumped" lately?**

When a potter bakes a pot, he checks its solidity by pulling it out of the oven and thumping it. If it "sings," it's ready. If it "thuds," it's placed back in the oven. The character of a person is also checked by thumping.

Been thumped lately?

Late-night phone calls. Grouchy teacher. Grumpy moms. Burnt meals. Flat tires. "You've got to be kidding" deadlines. Those are thumps. Thumps are those irritating inconveniences that trigger the worst in us. They catch us off guard. Flat footed. They aren't big enough to be crises, but if you get enough of them, watch out!

Traffic jams. Long lines. Empty mailboxes. Dirty clothes on the floor .... Thump. Thump. Thump. How do I respond? Do I sing? Or do I thud?

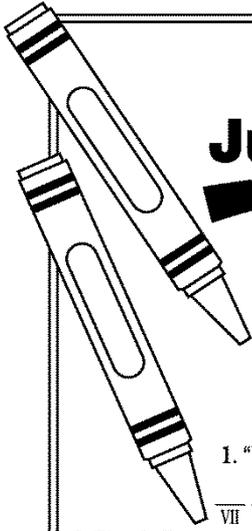
Jesus said that out of the nature of the heart a person speaks (Luke 6:45). There's nothing like a good thump to reveal the nature of a heart. The true character of a person is seen not in momentary heroics, but in the thump-packed humdrum of day-to-day living.

-Max Lucado in "On the Anvil"

## **What is Prayer?**

Prayer is not "going to God" (he's already in you), or "seeking God" (he's already found you), or "opening yourself to God" (you couldn't keep him out if you tried), or "becoming spiritual" (he's already sent you the Spirit -- who would rather show you Jesus than help you display your spiritual prowess). And it's certainly not buttering God up with abject apologies for your existence -- because in his Beloved Son, he already thinks you're dandy. Prayer is just talking with Someone who's already talking to you.

-Robert Farrar Capon



# Just for

# KIDS

There are rules for everything we do! Some very important rules for your life are found in the Bible in Exodus 20.

I - A	VIII - H	XV - O	XXI - U
II - B	IX - I	XVI - P	XXII - V
III - C	X - J	XVII - Q	XXIII - W
IV - D	XI - K	XVIII - R	XXIV - X
V - E	XII - L	XIX - S	XXV - Y
VI - F	XIII - M	XX - T	XXVI - Z
VII - G	XIV - N		

1. "You shall have no \_\_\_\_\_ CODE

2. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven above or on the earth \_\_\_\_\_ or in the waters \_\_\_\_\_."

3. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord your God."

4. "\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_."

5. "\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

6. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

7. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

8. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

9. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_"

10. "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_."

**BONUS:** What are these rules called? \_\_\_\_\_

*Bonus: The Ten Commandments*

1. "You shall have no other gods before me." 2. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below." 3. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." 4. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." 5. "Honor your father and mother." 6. "You shall not murder." 7. "You shall not commit adultery." 8. "You shall not steal." 9. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." 10. "You shall not covet...."