



Bethel Baptist

March 2016

Thoughts from Pastor Gene

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. Don't be afraid, he said. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. (Mark 16:5-6)

On the first Resurrection Sunday, a small group of women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. Much to their surprise, they found the large stone that had concealed the entrance rolled aside. They were even more surprised when they discovered the tomb was empty and heard a heavenly messenger enthusiastically announce "*He has risen!*"

The Life Application Study Bible lists the following reasons and realities that are true because Jesus rose from the dead.

- Jesus kept His promise to rise from the dead, so we can believe he will keep all His other promises.
- The Resurrection ensures that the ruler of God's eternal Kingdom will be the living Christ, not just an idea, hope, or dream.
- Christ's resurrection gives us the assurance that we also will be resurrected.
- The power of God that brought Christ's body back from the dead is available to us to bring our morally and spiritually dead selves back to life so that we can change and grow.
- The Resurrection provides the substance of the church's witness to the world. We do not merely tell lessons from the life of a good teacher; we proclaim the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Christian faith was firmly established during the 1st century because the validity of the resurrection emboldened the followers of Jesus. According to *Acts 8:4*, even those who fled Jerusalem because of persecution "*preached the word wherever they went.*" As we continue to do our part to make Christ known in the 21st century, let's be just as confident and excited about telling the world "*He has risen!*"



Fasting and Prayer Week

People fast and pray for a number of reasons; communion with God, the resolution of problems, spiritual renewal, guidance, victory over a besetting sin, healing, grief, the grace to handle difficult situations, and divine empowerment. We will be observing a week of fasting and prayer March 6-12, for anyone who would like to participate.

There will be a meeting in the sanctuary after our worship service on March 6 to provide information and sign up those interested in participating. You can participate in the fasting and prayer week at a level that you are comfortable with, so we hope you'll consider taking part.

For more information about Bethel, be sure to visit our NEW website at www.bethelbaptistchurch.net

faith &
hope love



Time Change Weekend

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13, 2016. Don't forget to move your clocks **forward** 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night so you will be on time for church on Sunday and ready for more daylight in the evening.

It's Happening in March!

Spring is here and it's time to do our **Sanctuary and Building Spring Clean!** On **Wednesday, March 16** at **7:00 pm**, in place of our regular Bible study, we'll be getting the church ready for the spring and for Easter.

We hope you'll be with us at **7 pm** on **Thursday, March 24** for our **Easter Communion Supper**. This simple meal is done in remembrance of the the Last Supper, and includes music, prayer and communion.



You don't want to miss our **Easter Pancake Breakfast** on **Sunday, March 27** from **9:45 - 10:30 am!** Kids can eat with their parents or join Ms. Crystal and Ms. Samantha for a special breakfast of their own.

Celebrate Easter with us during a special service on **Sunday, March 27** at **11:00 am**. Invite someone to join you for our celebratory worship of our Risen Savior!



We'll wrap up our Easter events with our **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** after our worship service on Easter Sunday. Children up through the 5th grade are invited to join us for the hunt!



Quarterly Business Meeting Notes

On Sunday, January 17, we held our first business meeting of the new year. Church Clerk Glenda Atkinson read the minutes from our annual business meeting in December, and was followed by Finance Committee Chair Kelly Dodd, who reviewed our 2015 Financial Report. With giving continuing to be down, we have been very careful and mindful of our finances, and finished the year with account overages only in Church Auto (van repairs) and Special Services.

Pastor Gene then shared the importance of praying for spiritual growth, personal evangelism, church growth, and church finances. Each of these areas are part of our prayers during our monthly prayer services, but we all need to be prayerful for these areas on a constant basis.

Pastor Gene then provided updates on our missionaries and our levels of support for them. We are currently supporting six missionaries, having lost two families during 2015 (the Lyles and the Lanes). With openings for two new missionaries, Pastor Gene opened the floor for discussion on suggestions and thoughts on areas of the world to be served. Suggestions included India, China, and the United States.

General information on what's going on behind the scenes was then shared by Pastor Gene:

- Crystal Hughes, our administrative assistant, is student teaching during the spring semester. She will be working in the church office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. She'll transition out of the admin position sometime in May, so we'll be looking for a part-time admin later in the spring.
- We have another Pancake Breakfast planned for Easter Sunday!
- Our church website is in need of a facelift, so the Website Committee (Crystal Hughes, Anil Mahadev, Katharine Nobles, and Karen Gardner) will be working on the new site.