

# Mount Bethel Reflections

*A Publication of the Mount Bethel Cemetery Company - A Non-Profit Cemetery*

## From The Desk of the President

It is a pleasure to send you greetings this time of year. Spring rejuvenation in the cemetery is soon upon us. Winter dormancy leads to Easter, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day in rapid succession. The most anticipated event of the year at Mount Bethel is the commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of Mount Bethel Cemetery's incorporation in 1868. A weekend of events is planned. Please join us April 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The close-unit board members and I want to continue to make our future as significant and honored as our past. Planting trees and maintaining the grounds and many monuments of the cemetery are our priorities. Many of our visitors come to explore and investigate the history of the town, state, and nation on these hallowed grounds.

Mount Bethel Cemetery offers the ideal setting for a glimpse into our histories; and for a daily adventure in learning in a beautiful setting. Guaranteed, a visit to Mount Bethel Cemetery will spawn an interesting conversation for both young and old.

Jane Moore, President  
Mount Bethel Cemetery Co.

## CHANGES IN OUR HORIZONS

It is a sad day whenever a tree is lost. The trees living among us are not as eternal as our monuments, nor can they be preserved with mortar and dirt. In 1996, there were 72 visible trees in Mount Bethel Cemetery. As of this date, there are 31 mature trees on the grounds and along the Locust Street sidewalk. The cemetery continues to lose mature trees, changing the horizon of our grounds. Some of the trees lost were affected by disease, other by age or the elements. The purpose of removing trees is for the safety of the community property, lives, and preservation of monuments. Smaller trees and seedlings have been planted but are slow growing. We continue to replant trees throughout the cemetery.

## GOLF CART

A new vehicle roams the grounds of Mount Bethel Cemetery. A used golf cart was obtained by Mr. Ronald Mable to be used for transportation of supplies needed during restoration projects and visitors during services or events.

## SESQCENTENIAL CELEBRATION

APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> to APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery, a 501 c (3) non-profit corporation, have a series of events planned to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cemetery's incorporation. Although the first recorded burials at the cemetery were in 1730, the incorporation occurred on April 21, 1868.

On **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** the opening ceremony will begin at 7:00PM and will include a welcome by Board President, Jane Moore, music by a community chorus under the direction of Chuck Williams, and the lighting of luminaries throughout the Cemetery grounds. The public is cordially invited to participate at no charge. However, luminaries may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one at \$5 each. Contact Charlene at (717) 684-6196 for more information.

During the day on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** art activities for all ages will take place between 10:00AM and 2:00PM in the cemetery. This event is free and will feature a variety of activities including: stone resetting; tomb stone rubbings and public art stations with assistance from local artists. Guided tours of the historic Cemetery will be conducted at 11:00AM and at 1:00PM

**Saturday evening, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, a gala will be held at Perfect Settings, at Second and Locust Streets, in Columbia. The "**Fete en Noir**" (celebration in black) is by ticket only. Tables, chairs, place settings, linens, and music will be provided. Guests are asked to dress in black if possible and bring their own drinks and refreshments. Janet Wood, owner of Regalia Costumes, and Jasmine Preston will be presenting a fashion show, "America Mourns", during the evening. Mourning fashions from the American First Ladies will be featured. Guests are encouraged to arrive at 6:00PM to enjoy an evening of dancing, camaraderie, and entertainment

until 10:00PM. Tickets may be secured by calling Jane Moore at 717-575-9760. Tickets are \$10 each.

Closing ceremonies will take place on **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, beginning at 2:00PM in the Cemetery with Mayor Leo Lutz serving as master of ceremonies. Patriotic music will be provided by the Twin Rose Community Band. Characters from the past will share, gun salute and Jere Breneisen will play Taps. Rain location is the Columbia United Methodist Church, at Fifth and Walnut Streets, for both Friday and Sunday, should it be necessary.

### **In Memory - In Honor**

**Luminaries** will be lit throughout Mt. Bethel Cemetery, at 700 Locust Street, on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 7:00PM, for the opening ceremony of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cemetery's incorporation. For those wanting to participate, complete a form and mail a check (\$5 for each name) made payable to: Friends of Mt. Bethel, P.O. Box 231, Columbia, PA 17512 by April 14, 2018. Forms are also available at the Visitor's Center and Hinkle's Restaurant.

Luminaries can also be requested by email: [jmoore1115@gmail.com](mailto:jmoore1115@gmail.com) Include the following information: in memory or honor of, By: (name), Phone/Email or Address.

Names will appear in the official program for the weekend activities.

### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA At MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY December 17 and December 23, 2017**

In September 2017, Matt Sliger and Ben Gorman of Cub Pack 35 approached members of Mount Bethel Cemetery with the idea of joining over 1400 other cemeteries in United States of America to join **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA'S** mission to: REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH. Wreaths could be purchased for a donation of \$15 per wreath. The donation allowed or sponsored a wreath to be placed on the grave marker of a veteran in a participating cemetery.

Without hesitation, Mount Bethel became a participating member for the **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** mission. Planning began for the ceremony held at Mount Bethel Cemetery, on December 17. Cub

Pack 35 began a fund-raising campaign for the 680 veterans interred at Mount Bethel Cemetery. The goal for the first year was to obtain sponsors for at least 100 wreaths. At the deadline we had wreaths for more than 340 veterans.

A ceremony was held December 17<sup>th</sup>, honoring servicemen from seven branches of service. Representatives included: Army - Ben Gorman; Marines - Dave Rupp; Navy - Harry Knighton; Air Force - Chuck Williams; Coast Guard - Lamar Kauffman; Merchant Marine - George Biagi; and POW - Timothy Haldeman (honoring his grandfather) Howard Scheetz. Master of Ceremony, Edward Wickenheiser conducted the service along with comments from Mayor Lutz and Jane Moore. A color guard was present from the Catholic War Veterans; and for the conclusion of the ceremony, a 21 Gun Salute from VET 21 and Taps were provided by Jere Breneiser. Over 80 volunteers were available on December 17.

Unfortunately, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, there were no wreaths available for our volunteers to place on veteran's graves because of a computer glitch with the Wreaths Across America's systems.

The following Monday, the location coordinator received a call asking Mount Bethel Cemetery to accept delivery for more than the 349 locally sponsored wreaths. An agreement was made with Ben Gorman, of Gorman Distributors, to accept as many wreaths the organization was willing to deliver. Over 3800 wreaths were accepted and delivered on December 20, to Gorman Distributors. Volunteers worked to distribute wreaths (to be placed on veteran's graves) to 11 local cemeteries in Mountville, Columbia, and Wrightsville, including all 680 veterans at Mount Bethel Cemetery, before Christmas. Wreath distribution at Mount Bethel Cemetery was held on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, with many volunteers returning to place wreaths. Thanks to the local community and members of Cub Pack 35, Columbia School students, and Frontier Girls for your dedication to this event.

Mount Bethel Cemetery will be acting as a location coordinator for the 2018 Wreaths Across America season. The theme for 2018 is "BE THEIR WITNESS". Please visit [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org) website to sponsor a veteran wreath for Mount Bethel's Veterans our LOCATION CODE is: **PAMBCC**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY

**Friday, April 27, 2018**

**5:00PM – 8:00PM**

“Visions of Mt. Bethel”

Exhibit of creations from the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Refreshments - FREE

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**2:00PM – 4:00PM**

“Visions of Mt. Bethel”

Exhibit of creations from the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Refreshments – FREE

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

**11:00AM – 3:00PM**

Professional Car Show

“The Last Ride” & “Macabre Creations”

Vehicles used in funerals

Vendors selling unique items in an outdoor market setting

FREE

**Friday, June 29, 2018**

**“Dying Art & Spirits”**

**7:00PM – 9:00PM**

Instructor: Joanna Spicer artist

Cost: \$35 per person (Includes 16x20 canvas & supplies)

BYOB

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**

**“Dying Art & Spirits”**

**7:00PM – 9:00PM**

Instructor: Joanna Spicer artist

Cost: \$35 per person (Includes 16x20 canvas & supplies)

BYOB

**Friday, October 26 & Saturday, October 27, 2018**

**“Spirits Rising”**

Enjoy a walk through the cemetery in the dark and meet some of the people buried there along with their fascinating stories.

Visit: [www.mtbethelcemetery.com](http://www.mtbethelcemetery.com) for more information

### “Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery “

In September 2017 the “Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery “was granted 501 (c) 3 non-profit status. This new non-profit group will allow “Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery” to be recognized by the IRS as being tax exempt by its charitable programs. The profits from events, programs, and donations obtained by the “Friends” supports Mount Bethel Cemetery 100%.

Currently the members of the “Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery” are: David Mountz, president; Claire Storm, secretary; Mary Frances Kreiser, treasurer; members: Charlene Bair, Kevin Kraft, Jetty Gerfin, Kathy Hohenadel, Kathleen Lutz, Barb Mable, Jane Moore, Ron Mable, Jazmine Preston, John Hinkle, and Dave Rupp.

Mount Bethel Cemetery is a 501 (c) 13 non-profit cemetery. 501 (c) 13 is also a tax-deductible status applying to non-profit cemetery companies. These are cemeteries which are operated exclusively for the benefit of its members, NOT for profit.

### Cemetery Volunteers

Come join the fellowship and volunteer in the Cemetery with our monthly group. They meet the second Thursday of the month, April thru December. Monthly gatherings tasks are focused on restoration; however, input is welcomed. Special thanks to our loyal volunteer crew: Greg Smith, George Kernisky, Jeff Groff, Wayne Kauffman, Paul Wittensoldner, Dave Rupp, and Ron Mable.

Or, become a Graveyard Gardener by adopting an area in need of plantings, focusing on one of the many family plots. Thank you: Kemmerly family, Dennis Dougherty, Chrissy Smith, and Abby Fritch for adopting bedstead graves at Mount Bethel.

**THANK YOU!**

### Bricks for the Brickyard ~ THANK YOU DONORS

Restoration of the old brick yard has begun! Approximately 50 feet of the 150-foot brick path has been started with insertions of memorial bricks purchased. Foundations of the tablet monuments in the brickyard area are being rebuilt, thanks to Ken Haberstroh, a local mason, and donations from Musser’s Supply. The brick path starts at the asphalt road near the Old Cemetery Grounds and travels to the gate at Cherry Street. For a cost of \$50 each, a brick can be personalized with the names of parents, children, friends, etc., or customized with a special quote/emblem as space permits. Your message will be centered on up to three lines of text, with a limit of twenty characters (including spaces and symbols and punctuation) per line. *Help us continue to preserve and maintain this beautiful section of land donated by Susanna Wright in 1730.* For more information call

717-684-6196 or visit our website:

[www.mtbethelcemetery.com](http://www.mtbethelcemetery.com)

#### **Fourth Friday at Mt. Bethel**

The "Visions of Mt. Bethel" artwork created during the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the incorporation of the Cemetery will be on display Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00PM until 8:00PM and again on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:PM until 4:00PM in the caretaker's cottage at 700 Locust Street, Columbia. Historic research, rubbings, pen and ink drawings, painting and photography will be exhibited. Refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to the public.

#### **The Value of Planning**

Planning before a death occurs can be one of the most responsible and caring things you can do to prevent an emotional and financial stress to your family. If decisions are made ahead of time, you can protect your family from having to make difficult and expensive decisions on possibly the worst days of your lives. Having these conversations with your family can be challenging. Be sure you let your family and friends know where to find the details of the plan in the event they need to use it. Contact a funeral director or attorney for more information on pre-planning.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF LOTS AND NICHES**

Even though the cemetery looks as if it is at capacity, there are many attractive burial plots available at Mount Bethel. We can offer over 80 cremation niches in the Scholssman Memorial Garden. Contact: Ronald Mable (717) 285-2332 or Kevin Kraft Sr. (717) 684-2370. For pricing information, visit

[www.mtbethelcemetery.com](http://www.mtbethelcemetery.com).

#### **COME TO A LIVE TOWN**

##### **An excerpt from an advertisement in 1893**

If you want to make money we can tell you how. Columbia's new Silk Mill, size 41X410 feet, three stores high, will begin operation June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1893. When the mill is running full it will require ONE THOUSAND HANDS. As everyone in Columbia is now employed, the managers must look to the near-by towns to furnish the help for the Silk Mill.

Come to Columbia. Call at the Silk Mill.

Secure employment for yourself, your girls and boys and then pay a visit to the office of THE EAST COLUMBIA LAND COMPANY, 152 LOCUST STREET, COLUMBIA, PA., and they will sell you a lot 25 X 190 foot on an eighty feet wide street, on the line of one of the electric railroads and build you a house Two and One-Half Story, seven room brick house. The lot and house to cost

sixteen hundred dollars (\$1600). You pay three hundred (\$300) cash and the balance of the purchase money to be secured by a first mortgage and including interest, taxes and insurance will make your rent less than eight dollars and one half (\$8.50) per month join the procession and get a lot before the best are gone.

*Among our local industries are three Rolling Mills, Stove Works, Grey Iron Casting Company, Laundry Machine Works, Flour, Silk and Lace Mills, Bread and Cracker Bakeries, Carriage and Wagon Works, Saw and Planing Mills, Steam Engine and Boiler Shops, Cigar Factories, Tobacco Warehouses, a Tannery, Flint Mill, a Shirt Factory and other smaller enterprises A Shoe Factory is also assured, as the machinery has been purchased and the building secured.*

As advertised by The East Columbia Land Company, 152 Locust Street Columbia, PA. S.S. Detwiler (cashier First National Bank) President. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: - James A. Meyers, President Columbia National Bank, William Given, Attorney-at-Law, Jacob C. Stoner, farmer, Jacob W. Yocum, secretary C.C. Kauffman, general manager.

Most of these gentlemen are interred at Mount Bethel Cemetery.

#### **SPREAD THE NEWS**

Do you know someone who is not currently receiving our newsletter? Feel free to share this document with them. Contact Jane Moore to add their name to the mailing list. [jmoore1115@gmail.com](mailto:jmoore1115@gmail.com)

#### **MOUNT BETHEL CEMETERY COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jane Moore	President
Kevin M. Kraft, Sr.	Treasure
Charlene Bair	Secretary
Ronald N. Mable	Superintendent
John F. Hinkle, Jr.	Board Member
Kathleen Lutz	Board Member
David T. Mountz, Esq.	Board Member
David M. Rupp	Board Member
Claire Storm	Board Member

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of Mount Bethel Cemetery is to maintain, preserve, and enhance, for the benefit of the general public, the cottage, grounds, and memorials located within the boundaries of these hallowed grounds; to foster the appreciation and respect for those who are interred within, to maintain permanent records of those whose earthly remains have been entrusted to us; and to provide a community resource for historic, educational, and cultural activities.*