

# LET'S LOOK BACK

*Much has been said about the development of Kentland that has taken place over the past year and those who participated so effectively in that development. At the same time it is important to be aware that a number of people contributed in many ways to the campsite from the time that it was given to the Church. Charlie Keilman has attempted to remember and to sketch that which took place previously and to review that portion of development for the benefit of the congregation. The church is appreciative to Charlie and as he indicated to Pastor Neal, if names have been omitted, we apologize and it has not been done purposely. If there are those of you who in the past have in some way contributed to the development of Kentland and it is not mentioned here, please bring this to the attention of the office because then we will do a subsequent article. It is necessary to know this as the church would construct a running account of the development of Kentland from its inception.*

In 1961, about 18-20 acres of woodland were deeded to the Church by Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Kent, with the intention of developing a useful Church property. Through the next year, Reverend Neal persistently urged the Property Board to take action on this project. As a result, Joe Alsippi, Wes Baddorf and Charles Keilman, then members of the board, took it upon themselves to open the area.

Trees, underbrush and briars were cleared...the work being done with handsaws and axes. As the trees were felled - they were cut up for future use, and the brush was stacked for burning. As larger areas were cleared, Ray Hagenbuch provided a power lawnmower to keep the brush down.

The area selected for a latrine was on a limestone ledge. Although Charles Rupp offered a compressor, hammer and drills; Joe Alsippi could arrange for explosives and Wes

Baddorf would do the blasting - state laws prevented these efforts. As a result, the work to cut down the ledge for a suitable footing had to be done by hand.

After moving about 80 tons of rock - using digging bars, wedges and sledge hammers, the ledge was finally leveled. Joe Alsippi put up the walls for the flooring, Charles Keilman secured used lumber from the New Cumberland Army Depot, and Charles Rupp furnished the truck to transport the wood. After Wes Baddorf constructed the rafters, Joe and Charles Keilman finished the roof. Wes made the toilet bases, and Ray Albright donated the seats.

Although no monies were set aside for this project - it ultimately met the state specifications - through the cooperation of these people.

A statement must be made concerning the Boy Scouts of Troop 54 and their involvement in Kentland. They developed nature trails, a worship center. Brad Moore in a project for his Eagle Scout Award, developed the worship center that was used as part of the dedication services. On numerous occasions the Boy Scouts have used the facilities. As part of his Eagle Scout Award, Jeff Kramer, repaired and painted all the picnic tables at Kentland.

During 1962-1963, plans were made for the further development of Kentland, to construct a pavilion. Ray Albright and Don Rimmer participated in these discussions, with members of the Property Board. Joe Alsippi laid out the location for the pavilion, and got the ground ready for the pouring of the footers.

In 1964 it was determined by the church that there was the need for a well. Consequently the contract was given to Eichelberger Well Drilling Co. They drilled for a well and an outside handpump then provided water for Kentland. That handpump is still in place.

In 1965, Don Rimmer brought in his equipment, and opened a right of way to the grove. He then graded the grove, ball diamond and pavilion

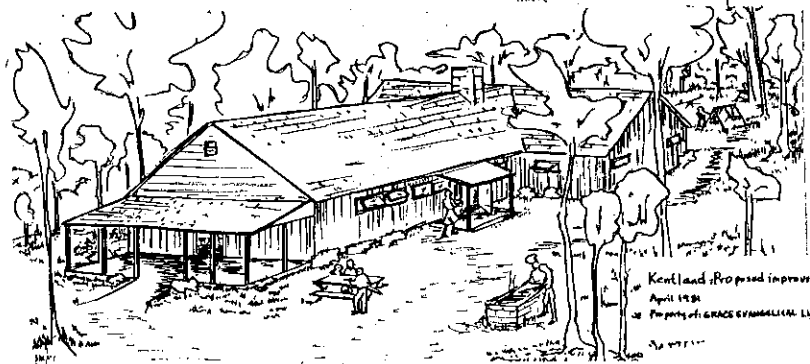
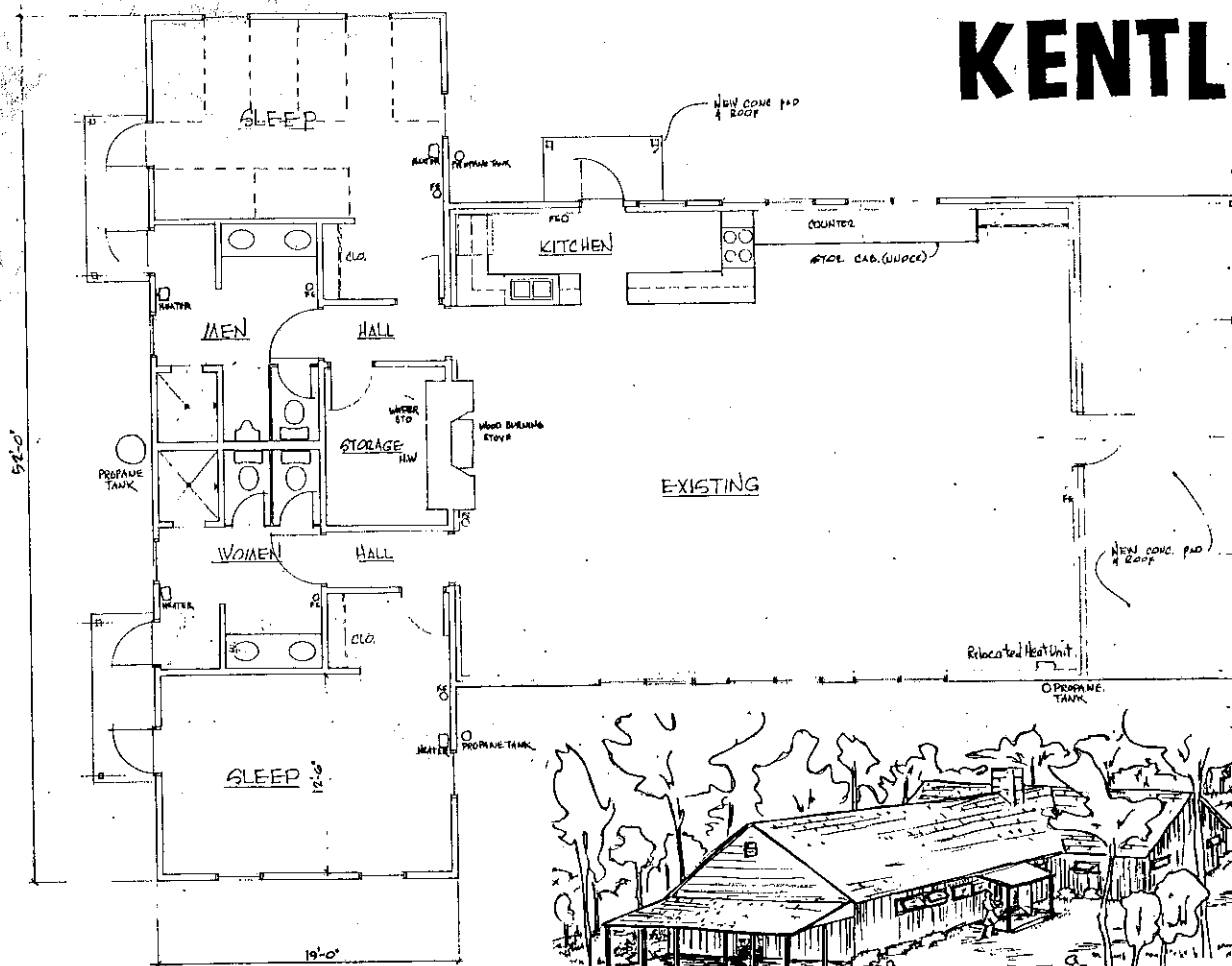
area. Ray Albright in partnership with Tom Bendrick, representing Wynn and Co., provided the services of their employees to begin construction. They were aided by Warren Kail - a concrete finisher, and Truman Domonick - a carpenter. Ray Albright handled the block work, flooring, wall around the lodge - and after Don furnished the trusses for the roof - finished the project. In 1966, Charles Bollinger provided the sealer for the floor to the pavilion. A real asset to the lodge was the construction of a stone fireplace. It was Paul Whitcomb, who through many long hours made possible the fireplace which for a long period of time was the only means of heat that was available to the lodge. In addition to Paul, Bob Rhodes & Ray Hagenbuch gave substantial help to this project. It was Ray who took a great interest in Kentland and for a long period of time was a supervisor of the development of that site. It is to be remembered that from 1963 to 1967, Ray Hagenbuch served as administrative assistant at Grace Church.

A number of years later Charles Appleby gave to the church a bottled gas heater that provided added heat and enabled the church to broaden activities at the site. However, it is to be remembered that the lack of indoor plumbing and running water still continued to work a hardship in programming.

With the roadway graded, Max Hempt stoned it at a minimal cost. Shortly afterward, Don Rimmer furnished the equipment, tar and stone to give us a finished roadway.

For a number of years Roland Anstine in cooperation with Carl Fritz assumed the responsibility for Kentland. Many long hours of mowing and maintenance were done by these two and they also attempted to get others to help with the mowing. Don Raffensperger made numerous contributions to Kentland. Though we do not know the specific names of others, thanks of the Church is given again to all who shared in this work.

# KENTLAND



Kentland (Proposed improvements to lodge)  
April 1981  
Property of GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## To the Congregation:

On May 3, 1981, after the 8:30 and 11 AM Worship Services, there will be a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. You will be asked to vote approval for the proposed plans for development of Kentland and their implementation. The Church Council has approved the plans and an \$80,000.00 mortgage for implementation.

Proposals include: erecting a 19' X 52' addition to the existing lodge to provide 2 sleeping rooms, 2 bathrooms w/showers, and storage space; building a kitchen in the present lodge; insulating and refinishing the lodge (interior and exterior); installing a wood burning stove in the fireplace (already donated); individual room gas heat units; re-grading and re-aligning entry road; grading for future volley ball and basketball courts; and improvements to the road to the lodge.

All regulations, codes, and ordinances have been considered in the planning efforts. Connection to the sewer system of Upper Allen Township is mandatory, a new well will be drilled to meet water quantity requirements, and Upper Allen officials have been apprised of our intent if approved by the congregation. Bids have been received from several contractors for each segment of the proposal.

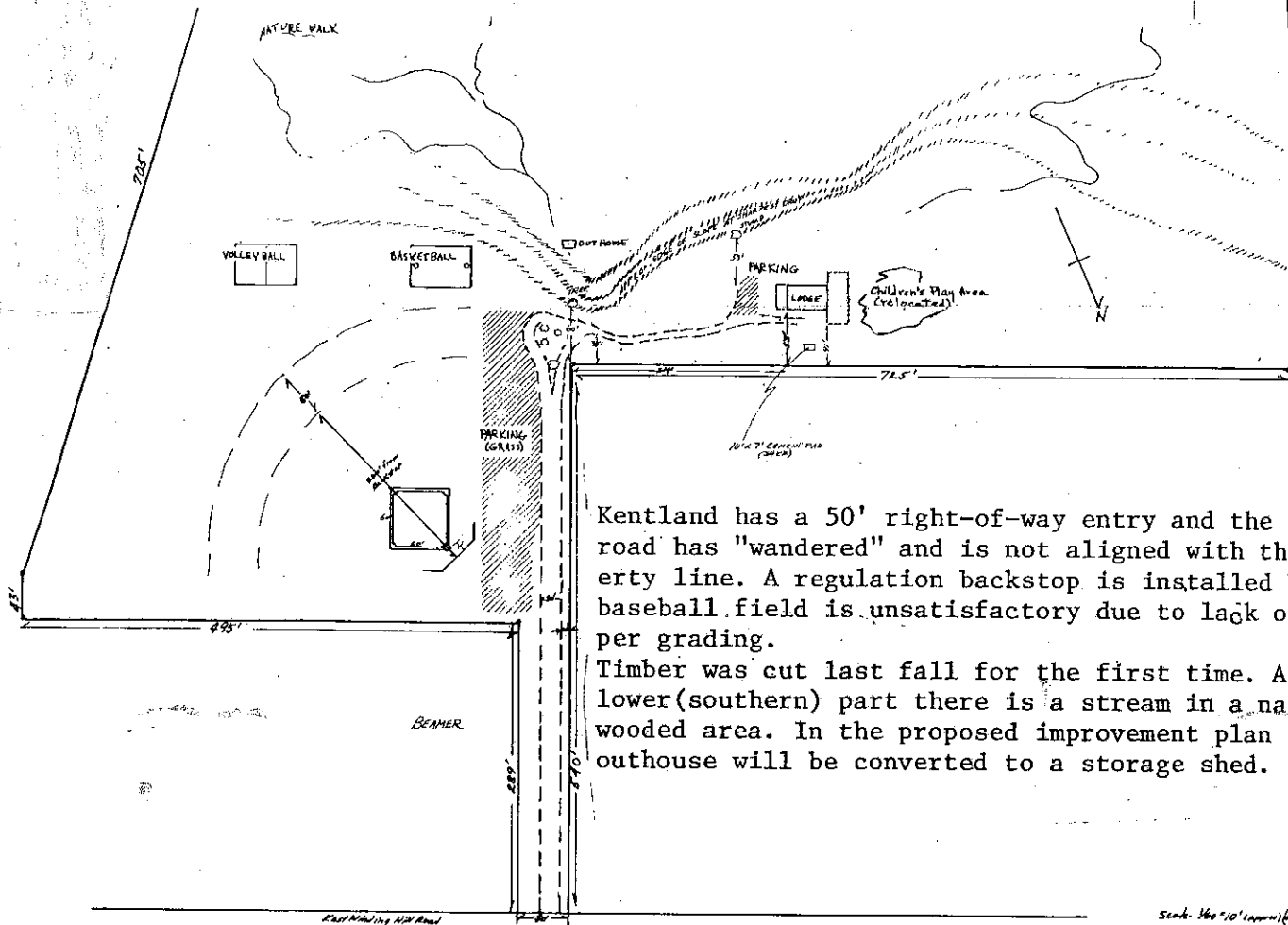
We ask that you consider the proposals and vote in favor of making KENTLAND a viable, useful part of our church assets which will add to our ministry and, secondarily, be a part of our Christian outreach in making Kentland available to other groups in exchange for a fee to cover expenses, maintenance, and long-range up-keep. With improvements Kentland would be ideal for church meetings, retreats, day and overnight camping, service organization and business meetings, family reunions, weddings and wedding receptions, picnics, etc...etc...etc...

A display, including a blueprint and site plan of the proposals, is in the church hall beside the Pastor's office.

The Property Board and Kentland Committee

# BACKGROUND:

In 1961 Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Kent gave to the church 18.75 acres of land in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, PA. In the early '60's a pavillion and outhouse were built. Minimal grading of the road and "game field" was done. Later the pavillion was enclosed and wired for electricity.



Kentland has a 50' right-of-way entry and the present road has "wandered" and is not aligned with the property line. A regulation backstop is installed but the baseball field is unsatisfactory due to lack of proper grading.

Timber was cut last fall for the first time. At the lower(southern) part there is a stream in a natural wooded area. In the proposed improvement plan the outhouse will be converted to a storage shed.

Proposed site improvements at KENTLAND, Upper Allen Twp., Cumberland Co., PA.

Scale: 1/4" = 10' (approx) for 1" = 60' (approx)

Property of Grace Lutheran Church

1/2 to Carlisle Rd., Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

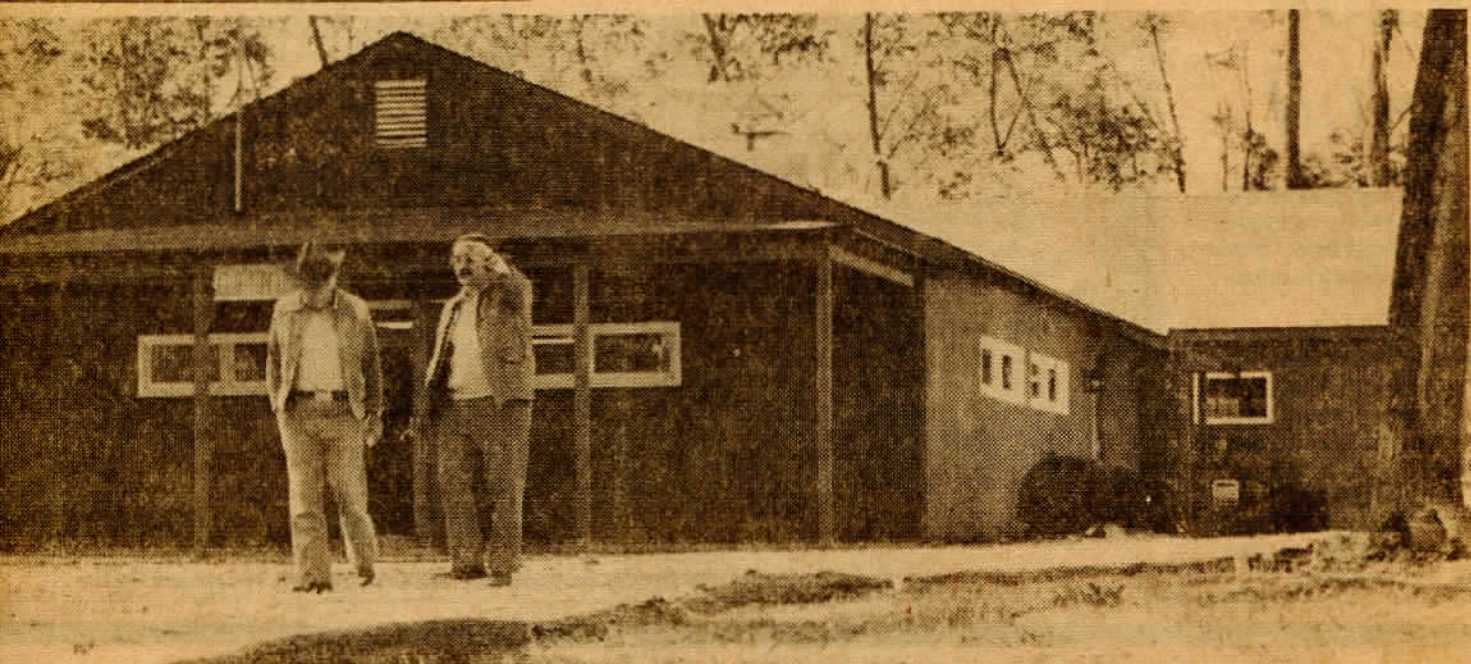
4/8/1981 SPD  
(Professional Survey Map)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Carlisle & Chelsea Rds.  
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Camp Hill, PA  
Permit No. 9

**IMPORTANT  
NEWS!**





—Sunday Patriot-News Photo

Harry Messick, Left, Building Superintendent, and The Rev. Ron Reed Take a Stroll at Kentland

## *Grace Evangelical Aims To Improve Its Camp*

Because members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Highland Park believed that its church camp at Kentland, East Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, should be a viable and useful part of the church's ministry, a program of development was begun last spring, and dedication services are planned for Sunday at 11 a.m.

The camp site is being used for picnics, retreats for the several church organizations, camp-outs for scout organizations, weddings and receptions, class meetings, family reunions and athletic events. And the development programs call for making Kentland available for groups outside the church.

The project started back in 1961 when Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Kent gave to the church 18.75 acres of land. In the early 1960s a pavilion and toilet were built on the property. There was grading of the access road and a ballfield was constructed. Later the pavilion was enclosed and wired. But because there was no running water and sanitary facilities, activities were limited.

Later, consideration was given to making Kentland a real part of Grace's ministry. An addition has been made to the existing lodge to provide two sleeping rooms, each with bathrooms, showers and storage space.

The entry road has been regraded and realigned. Grading for a softball and Little League baseball field has been accomplished, and volleyball and basketball courts have been constructed.

To finance the undertaking, the church embarked upon a \$80,000 campaign.

The Kentland Committee includes John Hocker, Robert Egley, Tom Hocker, Clarence Hocker, Frank Mohnney, Murray Sperling, Jeff Richter, Tom Elam, Myron Musselman, Blanche Musselman, Wilda Kramer, Kervin Kramer and Harry Messick. The planning and steering committee for the financial campaign includes Andy Graf, Robert L. Smith, Jim Grossman, Mark Thomas, Ed Atkinson, Richard Ramsey, Carolyn Witmer, Pearl Kent, Tom Handshaw, Don Barlup, Elise Deller and Elam.



# 1961 – 2023 Images of Kentland

The Lodge in 1971



The Lodge after 1981 Remodel





The Interior after 1981 upgrades



Firepit & Playground area

