



**"Let gratitude be the
pillow upon which you
kneel to say your nightly
prayer. And let faith be
the bridge you build to
overcome evil and
welcome good."**

Maya Angelou

**Bethany Presbyterian Church
2022 Annual Report**

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Dear Bethany family,

2022 was a year that saw our community come out of COVID hiding even more, having come back to in person services in September of 2021. In 2022 then we continued to assess our mask requirements for entry to our building. Having moved from masks and vaccines required to masks recommended but not required, we now have more people back to Sunday services in ways that are comfortable for each individual. Vaccines are still required and that has led to a greater level of comfort. Our meetings of committees and classes have been a mixed combination of in-person and Zoom. Most of our committees are in person now, and classes for Advent and Lent as well as our Wednesday evening prayer time have remained on Zoom. Continuing to stream our Sunday services on Facebook Live has been working out well, leaving us with a good combination of on-line and in-person participation.

We were able to enjoy some events in person again as a group. We celebrated the wedding of **Bamboo** and **Ryan** this summer. In October we were able to celebrate **Ken** and **Roberta Henry** with a goodbye party in person. A fun but bittersweet event, enjoyed together to launch them on their retirement adventure move to Washington state. Another event was the return of our Thanksgiving Dinner in November. We enjoyed each other, the great food and the talent afterward! The feeling of being back was very uplifting.

I feel so grateful and blessed by the overwhelming commitment of our entire Bethany family. Whether it was overwhelming financial giving, consistent attendance at our services and events, dedicated work on the board of deacons, session, committees and trustees, the joyful and thoughtful praying and singing – all of this, any contribution has helped to lift our spirits and give us a confident entrance into 2023. Thank you everyone for all that you do!

Blessings,

Pastor Deb

Bethany Presbyterian Church Officers

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Kathryn Quickert	Pam Matthews Dave Wales	Ken Henry

Deacons

Kathleen Fogle - Moderator

Roxane Wales - Secretary

Bonnie Morgan - Treasurer

Tamra Hollenbeck

Financial Trustees

Lyn Hughes - Chair

Ken Henry (until October 2022) - Member at Large

Bonnie Morgan - Member at Large

Dave Wales - Secretary/Treasurer

Roxane Wales (beginning November 2022) - Member at Large

Clerk of Session

January – December 2022 Bethany's Session was comprised of 4 elders:

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Kathryn Quickert	Pam Matthews	Ken Henry
	Dave Wales	

In October **Ken** moved away and **Lyn Hughes** and **George Lynch** each began a 3-year term as Elders.

These elders were responsible for organizing, leading and reporting the work done by the following committees:

Worship, Financial Trustees, Personnel, Nominating,
Outreach, Buildings & Grounds, Community Action/Life.

Ken & Berta Henry moved to Washington state in October. Thank you both, for your many years of loving service to BPC.

Thank you to **Lyn Hughes** for continuing her leadership of Community Action/Life during her "off" year (2022).

Session generally meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Meetings begin in prayer, lighting of the Christ candle and a devotion led by **Pastor Deb** with group reflections. This is followed by reports from **Pastor Deb** (Pastoral Care, Worship plans, etc.), Clerk of Session and Committee chairs.

This year there were continuing discussions about our COVID masking protocol which was changed in October to read "masks recommended but not required. Also, the October, November, and December Session meetings were held at BPC, masked and distanced.

Other continuing discussions included:

- Forming of and work by the Pastor Nominating Committee through the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. (Ongoing into 2023.)
- Facebook Live airing of Worship. (Camera placement, etc.)
- Outreach into our community to make BPC more visible.
- Enabling effective communication with our tenant, the Sikh Association.
- Use of BPC as a San Mateo Election Center. (November 3 - 11.)

- Secretary position specifics, posting of and covering until filled.
 - Thank you, Berta, for your kind, loving and valuable tenure with us.
 - Welcome, **Cathleen Torres**, BPC Administrative Assistant.

At the beginning of each year the Clerk of Session prepares a statistical report for Presbytery detailing congregation make-up and finances.

A big thank you to **Tamra** for sharing the clerk minute-taking and preparation with me...much appreciated, my friend.

As of 12/31/22, BPC's total membership was 35.

Please prayerfully consider serving Bethany as an Elder or Deacon.

Roxane Wales

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons remained the same for 2022 and as always it is a real pleasure to work with such loving and dedicated women. We have had a busy year and these dedicated ladies are faithful in keeping up with the members of Bethany. Our faithful treasurer, **Bonnie's** tenure with the deacons ended in December and we will miss her. However she has agreed to help us out when we could use her capable hands. Don't think we won't ask! Thanks **Bonnie**.

Thanks to the generosity of the Bethany family we were able to use the donated funds in a number of ways including: providing flowers and cards to brighten spirits, financial appreciation for kindnesses rendered, food, clothing and supplies for the Catholic Workers Hospitality House, and gift cards to those in need. We couldn't do any of this without your continued financial support for which we are very grateful. The final Deacons Treasurer's Report is attached on page 8.

In addition to financial support the deacons have also been busy keeping up with our members by calling, sending cards and emails and checking in with members we haven't seen in a while. We also created some after-worship opportunities to write Easter, Valentines and Christmas cards, as well as sending cards of support for service members. **Tamra** even organized us to create tiny flower pots for Easter.

And there were three luncheons and a holiday cookie exchange hosted by the deacons, too. Such fun!

2021 was a tough year losing a number of our members. Because of a lot of conversations around that an amazing event was created and held at Bethany which we called Memorial Planning. **Tamra** brought together a number of presenters to speak of all aspects of planning such a difficult occasion. **Chris Angeles** addressed all things medical including documents to fill out. **Pam Matthews** presented lots of music choices and **Deb** gave an overview of service planning. It was well attended and well appreciated afternoon. Thank you all for participating.

The deacons are so pleased to be together again and we look forward to serving our Bethany members in many ways.

The Board of Deacons: **Kathleen Fogle**, Moderator, **Roxane Wales**, Secretary, **Bonnie Morgan**, Treasurer, **Tamra Hollenbeck**

2022 DEACONS' TREASURER REPORT

Income from offerings (Thank you!)

January - March.....	\$945.00
April - June	\$80.00
July - September.....	\$90.00
October - December.....	\$625.00
Total.....	\$1740.00

Expenses

January-March	\$250.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In appreciation of member who provided shelter and housing \$250.00
April-June	\$59.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowers/cards for members \$32.74 • Appreciation gift for secretary \$26.50
July-September	\$144.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food for fellowship and supplies for San Bruno Shelter \$82.96 • Fellowship \$21.96 • Soups/food for San Bruno Shelter \$39.83
October-December	\$824.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowers/card for visitors/members \$8.77 • Donation for Catholic Worker Hospitality House (SB Shelter) \$250.00 • Clothes for Catholic Worker Hospitality House \$256.00 • Mailing costs for military cards \$9.90 • Gift cards for members \$300.00
Total Expenses	\$1,278.66	Thank you for making this possible!

2022 Income and Expense Statement

Ending balance 12/31/2021	\$96.70
2022 Income	\$1740.00
2022 Expenses	-\$1278.66
Income minus expenses	<u>\$558.04</u>
* In/out \$150.00 (\$0) from savings; plus \$50.10 remaining from savings to close that account.	\$50.10
Ending balance 12/31/2022	\$608.14
<i>Ending Wells Fargo bank balance \$1108.14</i>	

*Bethany Deacons previously maintained a savings account at Wells Fargo to transfer funds in/out to forego bank fees. Wells Fargo instituted a monthly fee on accounts not maintaining a \$500.00 minimum daily balance. We requested and received \$500.00 from the Bethany general account in January 2022 that will sit untouched in the Deacon checking account to avoid future service charges. This is to explain the difference in our usable funds/checkbook balance of \$608.14 versus the Wells Fargo balance of \$1108.04 at year-end 2022.

Bonnie Morgan

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Because of COVID, activity for the year was largely curtailed in terms of any gathering to perform work but as things are opening up we will resume regular meeting/workdays. We are presently meeting through email. With regards to church-wide-semi-annual Work Days (described below) as the Pandemic is winding down we will resume having those this Spring and Fall.

The Committee manages our janitorial service, Centurion Services. To save money, we purchase janitorial supplies for the church rather than paying them a premium to do so; Dave handles supply coordination with the Centurion office.

Twice a year we ordinarily organize church-wide Work Days to spruce up the campus for Easter and Christmas. This is when many regular church members lend a hand in cleaning and maintaining the church. The Spring Work Day was canceled, and we resumed by having one last November 26.

Please be aware that there are tasks for every skill level during our Work Days (indoors and out) and everyone is encouraged to participate!

Here are the activities the Committee is responsible for, or performed, in 2022 to maintain the church building and grounds.

- General maintenance of grounds - Weeding, lawn mowing, hedge trimming, brush control, clearing debris (mostly pine needles and litter) from the parking lot, tree trimming, roof gutters cleared of debris, on both the church-wide Work Days and monthly B&G work days/meetings (we will, again, incorporate our monthly meetings into the Committee's scheduled work day for that particular month).
- Roll out the garbage, recycling, and green cans every Tuesday evening. Many thanks to **George Lynch** and **Tamra Hollenbeck** for helping out with this when **Dave** is away.
- Organize and coordinate semi-annual church-wide Work Days. These will resume for 2023. Activities include: Window washing, dusting, spider web clearing, light bulb changing, cleaning the valley gutter between the upper and lower parking lots, wiping down woodwork and handrails, rain gutters cleaned, vacuuming of Sanctuary chairs, etc.
- Janitorial supplies purchased for janitorial service (as mentioned above).
- Programming of the two timers in downstairs Boiler Room that automate heating of the upstairs and the downstairs.
- Large pothole in the upper parking lot that was starting to become problematic was repaired in early spring.
- One of the two kitchen sinks had been out of commission due to the garbage disposal somehow becoming punctured. New garbage disposal installed in June remedied the problem.

- We started to notice, earlier in the year, that our water bill was starting to get bigger and bigger. After checking with the Sikh Gurdwara we determined it most likely was a leak somewhere in the building. **Ken Henry**, **Fred Matthews** and **Dave Wales** did a thorough inspection of Bethany's plumbing system, and finally isolated the leak to our now unused irrigation system, where it intersected the interior plumbing at the southwest corner of the building. We dug up the area and brought in a plumber to cap it off – problem solved. I also understand that we were able to partially offset our loss by contacting the San Bruno Utility Dept. and providing proof of our work.
- During May and June, **Ken Henry** and **Fred Matthews** repaired the outside steps to the lower level. Several steps had started to rot – now the stairs are in good shape.
- A decorative trash receptacle (plastic resin) was obtained in September and placed next to the entrance at the southwest corner of the church to help address the accumulation of litter.
- The downspout at the southwest corner of the church rusted through at the elbow. The existing downspout was repaired and reinstalled in December.
- Dead Tree Removal: In early July we obtained an estimate from our arborist, the Tree Guys, for the removal of 10 dead trees (on our property – not including the green belt surrounding our church) – which amounted to approximately \$10,000.00, or \$1,000.00 a tree. Shortly thereafter we were notified by PG&E that they were going to be doing some tree maintenance on our hillside for fire safety, and were provided the name of a contact person with the subcontractor PG&E had arranged. So, we placed a hold on the pending estimate with the Tree Guys and waited to see how much of the work we sought to have done would be done. Turns out all of it and then some. PG&E's subcontractor has finally dealt with all the dead trees which could have posed fire safety concerns.

The care of Bethany's building and grounds is a huge task, and thanks to the many hands of the members of this Committee and congregation for pitching in, the big task is manageable. **Many hands make light work!** AND we are always looking for

new members so if you are interested in exercising your unique landscaping, carpentry, or just happy disposition skill-set to the greater glory of the Lord and Bethany please ask a Committee member about joining us!

Building & Grounds Committee: ***Craig Bray, Leslie Olson, David Wales***, Chair, ***Roxane Wales***

Community Action/Life Committee

Bethany Presbyterian's Community Action/Life Committee works to help others through our actions and initiate fellowship through ongoing activities. As we came out of the pandemic era in September 2022, we were able to spend the last quarter of the year fulfilling our mission.

The Presbytery of San Francisco's "Fund Your Vision" \$50,000.00 grant, written in 2020, was a great help to the ***Catholic Worker Hospitality House*** (CWHH) in San Bruno. After providing \$25,000 to CWHH in 2021 (five payments of \$5,000.00), we then provided the balance of the funds to CWHH in 2022, which enabled CWHH, led by ***Peter Stiehler***, to provide food and other supplies to those in need in the tri-city area of San Bruno, Millbrae, and South San Francisco. Some of the grant funds were even used to build an ADU (Auxiliary Dwelling Unit) which is a long-term goal for CWHH. Community Action continues to look for and complete grant applications which will allow us to provide even more funds to those in need.

Our assistance to ***Iglesias Brasiliana***, a congregation worshiping at First Presbyterian in San Mateo, continued until April 2022, with deliveries approximately every month until ***Pastor George Abdala*** indicated we should stop our ongoing collections and he would advise if further assistance was needed. Deliveries included groceries, diapers, toiletries, baby clothes, blankets, and other household goods. As our partner, ***Iglesias Brasiliana*** knows they can always count on Bethany as we are just a phone call away. Seeing the smiling faces of the people waiting to help unload the deliveries was heartwarming, and the volunteers at ***Iglesias Brasiliana*** were always happy to see us and grateful for everything.

2022 Activities not held due to the CoVID-19 Pandemic

- Bethany's Spring Tea
- Saturday Dinner/Movie Nights
- Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Events

2022 Activities Held

- Farewell Party for Ken and Roberta Henry
- Movie Night - September
- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Revue
- Activities During the Advent Festival and Christmas Season

Ongoing Collections: **San Bruno Shelter**: Food, blankets, coats and jackets, socks, toiletries, and other non-perishable supplies; many thanks to those in the congregation and/or friends of the congregation who faithfully provide supplies of all kinds on a monthly basis.

Many thanks to the following committee members and others who are inspired to always help others in need: **Jorie Abbott, Sue Bullis, Frank and Donna Goodwin, Tamra Hollenbeck, Bob Johansen, Barbara Liedtke, George Lynch, Bonnie Morgan, and Rina Ranahan.**

Community Action/Life Committee: **Lyn Hughes**, Chair

Financial Trustees

The Bethany Presbyterian Church congregation fully supported the church's vision throughout 2022 allowing the Trustees to successfully complete the year by receiving contributions more than our original budget. The congregation faithfully fulfilled their generous giving which enabled the Trustees to continue operations in San Bruno. Our continued appreciation to everyone as we collectively enabled Bethany Church to continue our work in the community and the world.

The Trustees spent time in 2022 making sure our finances were in order, working with Session and Personnel to ensure our staff members were onboard and working to the best of their ability, which included a Christmas bonus and modest salary adjustments for 2023. We also continued to work with our tenant, who occupies

the downstairs of our building, as well as deciding how to proceed with many situations presented to us during the year.

Pledges, tenant income, one-time gifts, and increased general giving make up the income received at Bethany Church.

2022 Budget.....	\$182,298.45
2022 Actual Income	\$190,378.11 (106.068% of budget)
2022 Actual Expenses.....	\$173,839.91 (95.360% of income)

The Financial Trustees work to thoughtfully manage our resources to make sure we support the overall vision of the church. Our finances are healthy, and in spite of fewer pledging units, we maintained our ability to function throughout the year due to the generosity of our congregation. We also have the pleasure of working alongside our tenant which adds to our income. The church continued to provide Presbytery USA support for mission giving in the amount of \$7,200.00, which is the same rate as in 2021.

In addition, the church continues our giving spirit to show visible compassion to others in need by contributing cash or other items outside of our General Fund income to the following additional mission projects:

Partnership with *Iglesias Brasiliana*, San Mateo (through April 2022 only):
\$0.00 (household goods, food, diapers, blankets, toiletries, and other supplies but no cash gifts from Bethany's budget)

Catholic Workers Hospital House (San Bruno Shelter): \$0.00 (Food/supply offerings through the year but no cash gifts from Bethany's budget)

Peacemaking Offering: \$885.00

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (sent to PC USA): \$961.25

Total cash \$1,846.25

In December 2022, Bethany Church also completed payments from the grant received from Presbytery of San Francisco in the amount of \$50,000.00 payable to the Catholic Workers Hospital House in quarterly increments of \$5,000.00. It was a joy to hear what was accomplished by CWHH from the funds provided by the grant over the last two years.

Bethany has reserves that are held in accounts at the Synod of the Pacific and endowments that are invested in New Covenant Mutual Funds as follows:

Synod of the Pacific accounts as of 12/31/2022

Memorials & Gifts.....	\$55,685.77
Refurbishing Account.....	\$6,199.73
Reserve Account	\$10,199.07
Reserve 1yr CD.....	\$21,304.21
Pre-pledged Account.....	\$5,071.87
Lease Deposit Account*.....	\$3,608.79

**required interest-bearing account*

New Covenant Mutual Fund investments* as of 12/31/2022

Orv Wycoff Fund	\$4,939.40
Ernie Weiss Bldg & Grounds Fund.....	\$5,246.06
Elsie Hill Fund.....	\$29,519.34
Quickert Campership Fund	\$22,261.56

**Note: Endowment Funds are invested at New Covenant Mutual Funds. Dividends from the Endowment Funds may be used when requested, following the guidelines set forth by the givers of these funds.*

The Trustees are tasked with financial oversight of the church budget and property, financial reporting, insurance, and payroll issues as well as monitoring all church bank and fund accounts, running the annual Stewardship campaign, building lease/tenant issues, etc.

As done in the past, Bethany may continue to draw down savings or reserves, as needed. We continue to encourage short-term rental of our space at every opportunity, and we will continue to address all other income possibilities.

Thank you for your support as we enter 2023.

Financial Trustees: **Ken Henry** (until October 2022), **Lyn Hughes**, Chair, **Bonnie Morgan, Dave Wales, Roxane Wales** (beginning November 2022)

Personnel

After **Ken Henry** (former Chair of Personnel) moved away in October 2022, I took over the Personnel Chair position and rejoined Session. After talking with Ken, he characterized his accomplishments as helping Pastor Deb getting another Transitional Pastor contract, and then helping with pulpit supply as needed throughout the year.

After taking over Personnel duties I have also provided pulpit supply as needed since October, initiated quarterly check-ins with personnel, attended regular Session Meetings, and assisted with the hiring of our newest employee, **Cathleen Torres**, as our Administrative Assistant.

George Lynch, Chair

Worship Committee

Deb's overarching theme for year was *healing*.

We met faithfully this year, beginning the year still reeling from the spike in Omicron cases. **Choir** and **Prayz** resumed in mid-February presenting for Worship Services.

Navigating beyond the move of our Church Secretary, **Roberta**, to Washington State, has been somewhat traumatic, especially for Deb. But she was ably supported by volunteers like **Roxane Wales** and **Bonnie Morgan** who kept bulletins in order through the busy Advent and Christmas season. We are so grateful.

We haven't instituted much in the way of change for our services although we have been wrestling with placement of announcements and whether to have a postlude or not. These considerations continue.

Presbyterian Committee on Ministry is assisting us with the process by which we move from having a transitional pastor to a called pastor. This tentative time during this process reflected our need to not rock the boat but to provide fulfilling, inspirational worship services such as we have needed during the early years of Deb's tenure which began at the beginning of the pandemic. The hope articulated is that 2023 may be a year of vital new ideas and invigorating energy focused through future worship services.

Through 2022, Deb has guided our worship planning thoughtfully, collaborating with **Jessica** and committee members to observe the markers of the church year, encouraging thoughtful changes where possible and trying to assure our services satisfy our spiritual needs. Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas all observed and celebrated.

Worship Committee: **Tamra Hollenbeck, Pam Matthews** (Session Rep), **Deb McGuire, Jessica Reddell Popovitch**

Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Presbyterian Church Ruth Covenant Group, aka The Ruthies, met monthly with a hybrid model, the majority of people meeting at the church and some continuing to join via Zoom. Our book study was *A More Perfect Union - A New Vision For Building the Beloved Community* by Rev. Adam Russell Taylor - "A bold and actionable call to unite our fractured country." It was a challenging study with inspiring thoughts and suggestions, urging us to find ways to engage in actions that are "tied to co-creating a more just and inclusive nation." Each chapter contained a lot of food for thought, and discussions around the readings were thoughtful and filled with big questions. Definitely a book to be read and reread. In addition to the study, there was always time for check-in, prayers, fellowship, and great snacks.

The Ruth Covenant Group continues to be an intergenerational group of women devoted to supporting each other in all the stages of our lives. Any one is welcome to join. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday evening of the month. If you have questions about the group, please contact **Tamra Hollenbeck** or **Pam Matthews**.

Ruth Covenant Group: **Jorie Abbott, Nancy Crawford, Barbara Liedtke, Bamboo Lin, Judy Lozzi, Pam Matthews, Deb McGuire, Alicia McHale, Bonnie Morgan, Rina Ranahan**