

August @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! Each month, the newsletter will feature more articles about the goings-on at Bethany, committee reports, and other items of interest. Ongoing announcements can be seen on the website.



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace, and a soul generated by love.” – Coretta Scott King

My dear Bethany family,

I hope you are all finding ways to see God’s grace in your lives these days. As we move through a summer unlike any we’ve experienced before, I find myself sometimes actually surprised when something remains the same for a while since I’m accustomed to having so many things change so fast in the last few months.

I found myself complimenting someone on their mask the other day. I laughed as I walked on, thinking how odd it was that I said “nice mask” just as naturally as if I had said, “nice earrings” or “nice tie.” I saw a video of a string ensemble playing masked and distanced, in a large open space, and they were all wearing concert black, and red masks. Usually when I’m going to perform in a concert, we’ll ask the director before the performance, “Are we wearing concert black tonight?” or “Are we wearing the gold vests?” or “Are we wearing white shirts?” Now I suppose it will be normal when asking which part of any uniform we might be expected to wear, it will be normal for someone in the group to ask, “Are we wearing the red masks tonight?”

At our session meeting the other night I was very moved by one thing that has not changed at Bethany. Our community has not diminished our passion for giving to others. When the Presbytery gave every church in the Presbytery money to help during the pandemic we found places to assist. Even though our Spring Tea was postponed and collecting items at church is less possible since we are not there, we have found ways to give. Both the pandemic and the social unrest have left many of us feeling the juxtaposition of competing mindsets. In some ways we do less because we need to be home or at least narrow our traveling circles, and on the other hand our hearts are full because we want to do so much more. In the past months as we at Bethany have worked our way through the whirlwind we have remained strong at heart, and have not lost our sense of compassion for our community and our wider community. The generosity of each individual as well as each committee has been remarkable. The creativity and courage that it takes to find ways to forge ahead and not give up that you have shown is inspiring.

As our baptism reminds us, we are joined together by our love of Christ, love of one another, and an undying sense of compassion.

“⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” (Eph. 4:4-7)

Blessings,
Pastor Deb



COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

1. **Bethany Spring Tea – Cancelled for 2020; Next Spring Tea will be in 2021**
2. **Community Life is in Discussion about the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**
3. **We are Partnering with Braziliana Iglesias, a Church In Need!**

Rev. Janet Bower talked to Rev. Deb McGuire and Lyn Hughes about Braziliana Iglesias, one of the churches we have been praying for. This church worships in leased space at First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo; as a New Worship Congregation (NWC).

This church is struggling. With a congregation of approximately 140 families and 85% unemployment amongst the congregation, it has been difficult to maintain their households. There have also been new babies born and baby supplies are in short supply. Rev. Bower, on behalf of the Committee on Ministries, has asked that we partner with this church and help in any way we can.

In our discussions with Janet, here are the items needed by the congregation:

Household goods – Towels, blankets, sheets and pillow cases, kitchenware, dishes, glasses, pots and pans, silverware, etc.

Baby clothes – Newborn or 3 mons, new or clean, used

Diapers – Newborn or 3 mons

Food – rice, dry beans, canned goods, any items with a shelf-life

Toiletries – all kinds

Target gift cards

Checks payable to Braziliana Iglesias (any amount)

(To send a check, make your check payable to Braziliana Iglesias and mail it to 194 W. 25th Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403)

Continued prayers for the congregation

The Financial Trustees also found money in the Memorials account that could be donated to the church. We reached out to families who had Memorials for their families and obtained permission to give the money to Braziliana Iglesias. Bethany Church will provide them with a check in the amount of \$2,800; the Deacons will also provide a check in the amount of \$200.

Looking to the future, you can bring any items to be contributed to Braziliana Iglesias and we will ensure they are delivered to San Mateo. You can also call Lyn Hughes and we will arrange for any items to be picked up. To get things started, George Lynch took a load of items down to the church on Friday, July 27.

We will keep you informed of the progress of the congregation and their ongoing needs. There was also mention of starting the discussion now on how we can help at Christmas with toys for the children and a Target gift card for each family, possibly for \$25.

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4. **Grant Requested – Bethany Presbyterian Church and the Catholic Worker Hospitality House Food Distribution Partnership**

The Presbytery of San Francisco sent information regarding available grants from the Presbytery in five different categories such as Homelessness, Food Insecurity, etc. A grant request for \$50,000 over two years was prepared by Lyn Hughes and reviewed by the Trustees. The request asks for funds for Bethany Presbyterian Church to partner with our long-term friends at the Catholic Worker Hospitality House to provide a weekly food distribution to those in need in the tri-city area of San Bruno, South Francisco, and Millbrae. The Trustees recommendation was approved by Session at their meeting on Tuesday, July 21; the grant request was sent to the Presbytery for consideration. We will let you know what we hear once information is received.

JULY 21, 2020 SESSION MEETING

(by Zoom conference call 7:03 PM - 8:25 PM)

Meeting was opened in prayer by Debra McGuire, pastor.

Deb lit the Christ candle and led the Devotion reflecting on the “Imagination: Beauty’s Entrance” by John O’Donohue.

Session received a thank you note from the pastor of Latinos United in Christ Church to whom we are donating \$50 per month, through December 2020, to assist in congregational support during the Pandemic.

Deb reported on the congregational connections she has made so far during July. Session also, approved the following time off for Deb: 9/15-21, 11/3-9, 12/25-31.

Lyn reported for the Financial Trustees that giving was strong through June and to date with 94% received. Lyn also made a motion, which, after it was discussed, was seconded and passed for BPC to request a \$50K Presbytery Grant to partner with the Catholic Worker Hospitality House to assist with their feeding of the homeless. The grant would give \$50K over 2 years.

Session also, agreed to give Deb retroactive pay to cover overtime work done from March - June. The pandemic has created special situations needing extra time to plan and execute, e.g. Facebook Worship. Also, research is being done to replace the kitchen stoves by the end of 2020.

KQ reported that Outreach will host, on September 5 @ 7 p.m., a Zoom showing of the BPC Story Project made in August-September 2003.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 8/18/20 at 7 PM.

If you have any questions before then, please contact Roxane Wales at 650-303-2070 or roxanewales@gmail.com.

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

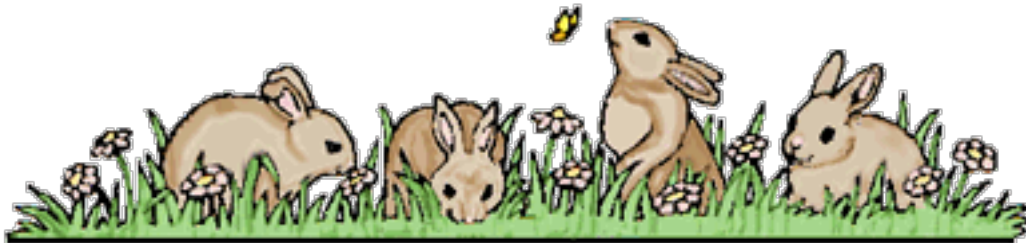
June and YTD Financial Summary

June Income	\$15,241.00	
June Expense	(\$13,503.38)	
Net	\$ 1,737.62	
YTD Income	\$ 85,735.07	93.775%
YTD Expense	(\$84,024.94)	(91.905%)
Net	\$ 1,710.13	1.870%

Continued thanks for your response to our request to mail your offerings to the church. We are halfway through 2020 and we have successfully paid all our staff and kept our bills up-to-date. Your response has made a difference and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Questions about the 2020 BPC budget: Contact Lyn Hughes, Ken Henry, Dave Wales, or Bonnie Morgan.

Questions about our tenant, the Sikh Association: Contact either the Financial Trustees (Lyn Hughes , Ken Henry, Dave Wales or Bonnie Morgan) or Buildings and Grounds (Dave Wales)

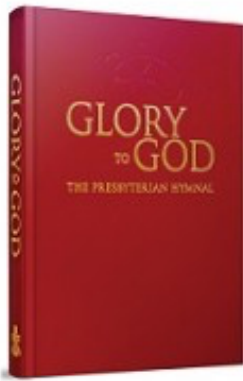


Do you love to read aloud? I do! I have been enjoying reading books into my audio recorder on my phone, one chapter at a time, and sending the recording to my family. My family sometimes has done this over the years. My brother is the one with an “Audible” quality voice! I had the idea of maybe reading all of the Psalms onto a CD as a way of offering pastoral care. But then I had a better idea!

What if anyone who wanted to read a psalm, and sent their recording to me? Then I could compile all 150 Psalms onto a CD and we could each hear our friends’ voices. A professional recording wouldn’t be the goal. A child could read, an old person could read, a family could read one psalm alternating lines maybe. It would be a really creative endeavor that we could all share in even from a distance! I would love to hear the voices of everyone who has been a part of Bethany who wants to read. It would be like a yearbook in a way, with our voices being the signatures.

Let me know if you’d like to participate! Don’t make me call you!

-Pastor Deb



Would you like to have a hymnal at home to use for worship? If you would, just contact your deacon or the church office, leave your name and how we can get in touch with you, and we'll contact you to arrange to either drop a hymnal at your home, or have you pick it up at the church.

Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: There will be a plastic bin outside the door closest to the lower parking lot at Bethany for Peter Stiehler's shelter donations so people can continue to donate for the shelter. The box will be periodically checked and items taken down to Peter's Second Ave. shelter. Any questions about this please contact George Lynch: cell phone @ 650-580-4123.

The shelter is currently in need of oatmeal, canned fruit, napkins and toilet paper. Also, the Shelter will be closed July 3-13.

Happy Birthday to all our dear friends born in the month of August

- 1 Claire DeLand
- 5 Leslie Olson
- 8 Randy Johansen
- 23 Jeff Wu
- 31 Jenna Fontaine



August Anniversaries

- 2 Brad & Robin Parker
- 10 Richard & Kathryn Pyke
- 12 Tom & Stephanie Knox
- 16 Andy & Melinda Jones
- 26 Clarie & Tamra Hollenbeck
- 31 Todd & Janet Bower



We remember these Saints of Bethany who were born in August:

- 1 Esther Burge
- 1 Lee Carlson
- 16 Anne Carlson
- 29 Russell Sicklebower
- 30 Kathleen Delander

Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For Sunday announcements: Wednesday morning. Email them to the church office or leave them in the mailbox on the outside of the office door.

For the monthly newsletter: the Wednesday before the last Wednesday of the month.



Bethany's Purpose Statement:

Bethany's purpose is to provide a nurturing and energizing environment to feed the soul so we can go out into the world and reflect the glory of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bethany's Welcoming Statement:

We don't yet know who you are,
but we do know that you are a dearly beloved child of God,
and you're already welcome here.
We invite you, on your unique spiritual journey,
to join us in the life and ministry at Bethany.

Bethany Presbyterian Church is a member of More Light Presbyterians
<https://mlp.org>



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