

January @ 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.

Welcome
to the
sunrise of
2021

And the
sunset of
2020!

My Dear Bethany family,

As the sun cycles the earth, the calendar turns over to another year, and the liturgical cycles continue, we have a lot to be thankful for. 2020 has had its major challenges certainly. COVID-19 has been the biggest challenge by far. Only 10 weeks of worship in the sanctuary in person, left us with 42 weeks of creatively managing to present worship on Facebook and outside twice. Easter and Christmas, adult ed classes and coffee hour are just not the same through a screen. I have dearly missed all of the in person meetings I had hoped to have in your homes or favorite coffee shops that I planned for my first year. While it is nice to have personalized “pastor deb” notecards, they were never meant to replace seeing you face to face. When the weather is nice, my patio makes a great guest space. A goal for 2021 is for me to reach out more to those of you who are not equipped to join us via technology. I am with you at heart – I would prefer less electronic bytes, and more chocolate bites between us.

None of this however has fazed the life spirit that exists at Bethany. Without all of beloved celebrations that we missed this year, like the tea and the thanksgiving meal, the pride parade, and others, we still found ways to be community. We still collect for the shelter, we have partnered with IPB to help them through their congregational struggles by donating food and other items, and lots and lots of toys and gift cards for their families for Christmas, as well as creating a further partnership with the San Bruno shelter through a Presbytery grant that will help them to grow and fulfill some of their most creative dreams. We have not let the difficulties of 2020 stop the fierce giving that we know how to do! Our little free library, the cleanup of some bushes, and the cleanup of one corner of our parking lot by selling the container and cleaning up some debris, our curb appeal is getting stronger and stronger. By finishing the year with advent packets for families, classes, reading books on line and beautiful luminaries we have ended the year with great vibrancy.

(continued)

I couldn't help but feel a very meaningful visual sign of hope for the coming year as I watched the shimmering giant star that our luminaries created.

Lastly, I cannot thank you enough for the support, joy, love and friendship you have given me this year. I am humbled and happy to know each of you. Thank you so much for you!

Blessings, Pastor Deb

DECEMBER 17, 2020 SESSION MEETING
(by Zoom conference call 7:07 PM - 8:40 PM)

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer, Dave lit a Christ Candle and George led a devotion reflecting on Winter Solstice, Christmas Lights, and "I am the light of the World".

Deb and Roxane worked as the Nominating Committee and reported that Bonnie Morgan will remain on as a Deacon, and with George, leaving Session after 7 years, Ken Henry has agreed to work as the Elder leading the Personnel Committee. Also, Rina & Kathleen will be off of Session and will continue their work on Shelter Ministry and Christian Education while keeping in touch with Deb and Roxane.

Pastor Deb is enjoying her time on Saturday morning reading children's books and is working on services for Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve.

It was greed that our 25% of the 2020 Peacemaking Offering (\$180.75) will be given to Hope House in SF.

BPC Boiler has been repaired, Sanctuary warmth has returned!

Accompanist, Amy Stephens will fill in for Jessica the two Sundays following Christmas (12/27 & 1/3/21). Lessons and carols will be presented.

Thank you to George Lynch, Kathleen Mitchell and Rina Ranahan for the devoted service on Session.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2020 at 7 PM via Zoom. If you have any questions before then, please contact Roxane Wales at 650-303-2070 or roxanewales@gmail.com.

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:40

Pastor Deb will be on vacation starting December 26th, and will be back in worship on January 3, 2021. If you have an emergency requiring a pastor, please contact elder Lyn Hughes ((650) 867-0667) and she will get in touch with the pastor on call.

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

November and YTD Financial Summaries

November and YTD

\$10,835.00 Income	\$145,373.07 Income	86.731%
(11,246.74 Expense	(148,469.86) Expense	(88.578)%
(411.74)	(3,096.79)	(1.847)%

The Financial Trustees are finalizing on our 2021 budget to bring to the Session. More information will be provided at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Funds were provided in December to two Go Fund Me accounts for neighbors of Tamra Hollenbeck in San Bruno who experienced a devastating fire. The funds came from the Pastor Discretionary account.

Our thanks for mailing or bringing your offerings to the church. Now, as in 2020, we are blessed to have your ongoing support!

Questions about the 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)

Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: There will be a plastic bin outside the door closest to the lower parking lot at Bethany for shelter donations so people can continue to donate for the shelter. The box will be periodically checked and items taken down to the shelter. Any questions about this please contact Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979.

A current list of shelter needs is on our website: <http://bethanypcusa.org/we-do/shelter-needs.html>

You can read more about the shelter on their website: <http://catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org/>

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

1. **Ongoing News about Our Partnership with Iglesias Braziliana – San Mateo**

Ongoing we have been collecting items for Iglesias Braziliana, our partner in San Mateo. We are asked for an updated “needs” list from Pastor Jorge and will post once received. In the meantime, please continue to bring nonperishable food items, toiletries, and blankets.

We provided the following for Christmas:

140 - \$25 Target cards (one for each family) and approximately 75 toys for the children which were books, games, dolls, trucks, puzzles, soccer balls, stuffed toys, some baby clothes, etc.)

Thanks to all the Santa’s helpers which included the Deacons who provided gift cards. You can watch the Thank You video received from Pastor Jorge Abdala and is posted on the Bethany website.

Please continue to prayer for this congregation and consider how you might be able to help them.

2. **Our First Check was Provided to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter) from the Presbytery of San Francisco Grant**

Pastor Deb and Lyn Hughes had a Zoom meeting with Peter Stiehler and decided how best to distribute funds from our PoSF grant. For December, we provided \$5,000 which Peter described in his thank you letter to Bethany: “Dear Bethany Friends, thank you for the first disbursement from the \$50,000 grant from the Presbytery. The grant will help us provide gifts for our guests this Christmas, as well as food and supplies now and throughout the year. We are thankful for this assistance as well as all the support we have received from Bethany over the years. You all are such a blessing to our work and those we serve.”

We look forward to continuing our work with the San Bruno Shelter ongoing and thank and bless Peter and his team for all the work they do for those in need.

*For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11*

Happy Birthday to all those born in January!

- 6 Jenny Schurk
- 6 Patrick May
- 8 Melinda Albaugh-Jones
- 14 Todd Constable
- 19 Allyson Sweetman
- 21 Mitch Fontaine
- 21 Edward Kross
- 22 Kenneth & Kaileigh Parker
- 28 Nels DeLander
- 29 Emilie May-Uldrick
- 30 Kent Sicklebower



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

- 6 Betty Hart
- 10 Stuart Smith
- 10 Paul Lutz
- 11 John Harlan
- 18 Vern Parker
- 19 Dorothy Brown
- 28 Bill Burge
- 31 Angie Angeles
- 31 Dick Gartner

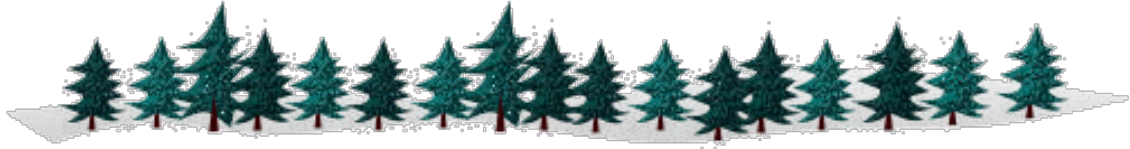


Due Dates

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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