

July@Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

2021

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.

JULY

This month is often filled with celebrations that include picnics, parades, band concerts in the park, barbecues, family, and fireworks! If you play the piccolo, your brain begins to hear the big solo from “Stars & Stripes Forever” starting in June and you’re ready to go.

Then, there’s the next 27 days of July.

If you’re like me, your mind has been filled with pandemic questions, safety, vaccinations yay/nay, protection after vaccination, etc. for way too long. It has been exhausting and it hasn’t gone away even though we are heading in a good direction. We’re on the cusp of coming out. As hopeful as that is, it is still tiring to be concerned about the same subject. Many of us have been blessed enough to not have been affected by the loss of a loved one or the loss of our livelihood to COVID. Even so, we have all been affected permanently.

When I think about what is next for our world, our country, our community, I feel like we are about to open a door. One door feels like a place of welcome to a new comfortable world. Another door feels like it’s opening into something dark and foreboding. Some of us have a choice about what is next, which door to choose, but not everyone. It’s important to remember that we all don’t feel the same at the same time. I want to encourage us to keep realistic expectations of ourselves, and especially for those around us. Those that we know and those that we don’t know. We can do that best by not holding on to old assumptions, not judging others for the way they feel, and being willing to listen to the changed hearts of everyone we meet. All of us have been changed in deeply personal ways.

We can be gentle. We can listen more than we speak. We can offer grace more than condemnation. We have been given as much by Christ who loves us all.



*Let’s talk! 650-589-3711
Pastor Deb*





We have one more outdoor, in-person worship serviced planned for August 1st!

The services will be held on the patio right outside the church doors, and we will be requesting people to be socially distant and wear masks. The services will also be streamed live on Facebook, as they are now.

There will be a couple of shade canopies and some chairs, and you are welcome to bring your own chair if you wish. Hymnals and copies of the worship liturgy will be available.

Please join us as we gather together to worship in person as a congregation! Hope to see you there!

Financial Trustees

May

\$ 16,485.00	Income	
\$(13,272,86)	Expense	
\$ 3,212.14	Difference	

YTD

\$76,542.50	Income	102.334%
\$(74,458.24)	Expense	(98.502)%
\$ 2,084.26	Difference	3.832%

Continued thanks for mailing or bringing your offerings to the church. 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)

Do you know?

We all are thankful for Goodwill and the various recipients of our discarded clothing. It does more than just help folks, since the last thing we want to do is throw our clothes in the garbage (landfill). According to one source, clothing in landfills are responsible for 10% of all carbon emissions on the planet. Did you know that 95% of used textiles of all sorts can be recycled or repurposed? Even fabric scraps can be donated to Goodwill (but call first to make sure the individual site will take them). Another thing to consider is the actual production cost for new clothes, since it takes so many resources to produce, demanding human labor (watch *The True Cost*, a documentary available on YouTube for a sobering look at fashion industry and the implications of our love for cheap new clothes), and huge amounts of water and energy. Let's join the movement toward a different relationship to clothing, buying less, choosing more sustainable sources, using thrift stores more and getting creative with reuse! (Check out Upworthy.com for a good article on this subject!)



I will be on vacation starting June 29th and will be back in the office on July 9th. Email and voicemail will be checked in my absence. There will be no Wednesdays@Bethany on July 7th. Washington, here we come!

– your secretary, Roberta Henry

Session Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Meeting was opened with prayer, the lighting of the Christ Candle, and Devotion led by Deb.

Minutes of the 5/18/21 Session meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report:

1. Protocol for reopening was presented and discussion ensued.
2. Deb on Study Leave from evening of July 25 through August 1, at Mercy Center.
- 3.

Financial Trustees:

1. May - 102% income, 98% expense. Bethany received another \$5000 Covid payment from Presbytery.
2. Trustees received a very nice note from Kay DeWeese to Bethany.
- 3.

Buildings & Grounds: Maintenance of grounds continues.

Community Action/Life:

1. Thirty Father's Day presents delivered to Brazilian Church.
- 2.

Outreach:

1. Church Brochure has been updated and is now available for distribution.

Beautification Task Force: Co-chaired by Ken Henry and Lyn Hughes - to work on parking lot and median at church with an eye towards making the church look lived in and loved.

Other Business:

1. Next meeting: July 20, 2021

A quick message from the Deacons: We want to extend an offer to contribute to the deacons' fund to support our work in the community. We have been prayerfully diligent in looking to help good causes that address issues near and far of social justice, housebound seniors, safe housing, the SB Shelter, the Brazilian congregation, etc. But we also want to fine-tune our attention to the needs of our own community as well. Please consider supporting the deacons' efforts to spread messages of peace, joy, love, support and encouragement right in our neighborhood. We love to find new ways to lift you up. God bless you, and happy summer!

Your deacons, Kathy, Roxane, Tamra and Bonnie

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

1. News about Our Partnership with Iglesias Brasiliana – San Mateo: We continue to collect items for Iglesias Brasiliana, our partner in San Mateo. “Needs” include non-perishable food items, especially rice and pinto beans. Cans of soup, chili, or canned vegetables or fruit are also needed. Other useful items are toiletries, blankets, and paper products.

Our next collection items will be for school supplies for the children: Notebook paper, pencils, 16 or 24 packs of crayons, 12” rulers, small scissors (child size), and colored pencils. Please bring any supplies to the church and place in the Narthex under the coat rack. Donations are also welcome to help purchase these supplies. Please continue to prayer for this congregation and consider how you might be able to help. We continue with discussions about how we might help through the end of this year.

2. Ongoing we will be providing funds from our Fund-a-Vision grant to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House (the San Bruno Shelter) for various needs. During July, we will make our third \$5,000 donation from the grant. At this time, the greatest physical needs are for food, toiletries, and blankets. We also plan to put together 25 – 50 additional toiletry bags for CWHH by the end of August. Items needed are bars of soap, washcloths, disposable razors, small deodorants, small bottles of shampoo, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and socks. Items can be brought to the church and put in the Narthex. Please mark the bag as toiletry bag supplies. Please pray for our community and how we may continue to help CWHH.



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/>



Greetings Bethany Community,

I wanted to drop a note and let you all know I'll be away for a month this Summer. Amy Stephens-Chen will play piano in my absence, which is always a nice treat. She's fantastic, isn't she? I'll be leaving July 5th and will be back on the bench for August 8th.

I'm sure I'm not the only one feeling the burn-out from 15 months of pandemic living. For me, it was like a dreamstate where everyday felt just like the one before it while simultaneously being radically different from anything I've ever experienced before, in a Mad Max Dystopia kinda way. Teaching piano lessons on Zoom was definitely the thing that stole my energy and vivaciousness. Canceling my Zoom Pro account this month felt even better than removing my mask, lemme tell ya!

I'm headed to Louisiana to work on the New Orleans house and spend time on Grand Isle at the family camp. We're all vaccinated and ready to party! There will be no piano, no lessons, no Zoom!

I look forward to returning in the Fall, recharged for music making and teaching. I'm very excited for the Grand Re-Opening on September 12 and even more excited to have Chancel Choir back in the loft on a weekly basis.

I wish you all a lovely Summer and hope that you too are able to take some time to relax and recharge.

Musically,
Jessica



This is a photo of the labyrinth on the grounds of the Mercy Center, in Burlingame. The last time I was there for a private retreat, they were just beginning to build this. It is with great joy that I will be back there for study leave beginning July 25th. I will return on August 1st. I am looking forward to this time of return to a place that helped birth my spiritual journey.
-- Pastor Deb

Happy Birthday to these wonderful folks born in the month of July!

- 2 Maryann Orsburn
- 3 Brad Parker
- 3 Larry Gruner
- 5 Trish Lynch
- 7 Craig Bray
- 12 Lyn Hughes
- 21 Kathleen Mitchell
- 21 Billy Nicolosi
- 23 Barbara Jessee
- 23 Bamboo Lin
- 26 Bob Johansen
- 27 Samantha Richards
- 31 Roxane Wales



July Anniversaries

- 8 Susan & Patrick May
- 20 Lyn Hughes & George Lynch

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

- 1 Esther Burge
- 1 Lee Carlson
- 16 Anne Carlson
- 29 Russell Sicklebower



Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For the monthly newsletter: the Tuesday 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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