

November@Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

2022

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.

Dear Bethany family,

There are so many mixed feelings surrounding our move to Washington – we are sad to be leaving our house, our neighborhood, friends, and, of course, our beloved Bethany. And yet, at the same time, we are excited to be actually owning our first home, looking forward to living with our daughter Sarah and son-in-law Spencer (and their dog M'Baku and cat T'Challa), and maybe a bit anxious about the huge adjustment this all is!

This has been our home for a long time. We first visited Bethany in August of 1985, and after that first worship service, Roberta was invited to join the Ruth Circle at their dinner out, and we were both invited by Pam Matthews to join the choir. What a welcome! We quickly found our places in this community, in so many different areas: session, deacons, choir, the Bethany Quartet, Four on the Floor, Logos, financial trustees, EWOC – there have always been so many ways to serve, to be fed, and to have fun. Not to mention Roberta serving as secretary for the last 21+ years!

Bethany has been a community of such love and support, celebrating with us in the joys of life, and providing tangible and emotional support through the hard times. Raising Sarah and Laura here at Bethany was a real blessing. They have always been loved and cherished, prayed for and celebrated for the people they are. As parents who have two daughters who are part of the LGBTQ+ community, that means so much.

We will miss you all, and promise to let you know how life is going up in the PNW (Pacific North West). We will have a guest room, so if you're in the area, please do get in touch!

We'll be unloading the moving truck on Halloween! Our new address is:
5810 73rd Ave NE, Marysville, WA 98270

With all our love, Ken and Roberta Henry



Peacemaking and World Communion Sunday

Thanks to everyone who contributed to PeACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING, which was dedicated on World Communion Sunday. Bethany contributed \$885 to this offering, and 25% will remain with Bethany to support our own efforts towards peacemaking. We are partnering with several classrooms at Allen School, inviting them to participate in an Artistic Expression Opportunity about what A Season of Peace might look, sound, feel, smell, and/or taste like. All participants will be celebrated at a reception held at Allen School in November (due to some volunteer glitches, the date was moved back a bit!). Their contributions will be displayed at the San Bruno Park District Office. A reception honoring all participants will be held in late November, and several students will receive special awards for their efforts.

The Bethany congregation is also invited to consider what A Season of Peace represents to them, and any contributions will be placed on display on the church's bulletin board. Please consider participating in this opportunity, and please invite your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbors to join in! We have already received 3 submissions from one of our own, three beautifully written poems by Robert Johansen. He has given his permission to publish these in our monthly newsletter, so please enjoy his creations, and please feel invited to submit some of your own! May Christ's peace fill all of your days.

Peace
by Robert "Bob" Johansen

Peace
Realizing
the grocery store
produce department
is
God's Art gallery.

Peace
If you feel the hint of a kiss
blow by your cheek
it could be from any
of the many
that love you.

Peace
May a soft breeze caress your face
a gentle one awaken you
then
a smile
bring.



TIME CHANGE NOVEMBER 6

DON'T FORGET TO SET CLOCKS BACK EVENING OF NOVEMBER 5. But if you forget...and you arrive early, you're welcome to start the coffee, set up coffee tray, read the bible, join Prayz or Choir in rehearsal, etc... 😊
ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO DO IF YOU'RE EARLY!

Donations for San Bruno Hospitality House: Please continue to bring your donations for Hospitality House and put them in the marked basket in the Narthex. Any questions about this please contact Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979. **A current list of shelter needs is on their website: [Catholic Worker Hospitality House](#)**

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

October 18, 2022 Session Meeting

The Devotion was led by Rev. McGuire. All present shared their love and thanks to Ken Henry, who was attending his last Session meeting before moving to Washington. It was a lovely, heartfelt time.

Reports:

Pastor - Advent series from Follow Me PCUSA resources "Make Peace" - a 4-week study. Deb has books, has set the dates. Deb will be on vacation from 11/21-11/28/22.

Financial Trustees - Financially stable through 3rd quarter because of very faithful giving by congregation. Deb's contract is being worked on for next year. Sikh Association lease is being updated. Stewardship campaign is coming with preliminary budget for next year being prepared.

Buildings and Grounds - Cutting down of dead trees by PG&E is complete. Dave will contact them regarding the trees on the lower section the city property adjacent to Bethany's land because of continued fire risk.

Community Action/Life - Church Thanksgiving dinner will be on Saturday, November 19. Church to provide turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, and drinks. Congregation invited to bring sides, salads, and desserts. Sign-up sheets will be available starting October 30. There will be a Food/Blanket/Coat drive for the Catholic Worker during the season of Thanksgiving. Advent Festival will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3. at 10:00 am. Lyn offered thanks for the people who helped with the Fond Farewell Party for Ken and Berta Henry. It was a wonderful event.

Personnel - George will be taking over this committee from Ken.

Worship - Nov. 6 will be Remembrance Sunday/All Saints' Day.

Nominating - Committee report will be placed on November agenda.

Other Business:

1. Mask wearing inside BPC. Mask wearing will be recommended, not required. We will continue to require people to be vaccinated if they are attending worship. 2. Use of BPC as San Mateo County Election Center. Machines will arrive at Bethany on Thursday, Nov. 3, and be picked up Thursday, Nov. 10. 3. New Stove. A new stove has been selected from Tri-Mark, the company Jorie Abbott works for. 4. Mission Study. The questions have been answered and sent for review and suggestions. We are hoping to have the paperwork to COM by their November meeting. 5. As Roberta Henry moves away, several people have volunteered to help with some of the secretarial tasks: Bonnie Morgan will write up the Wednesdays at Bethany and the Monthly newsletter, and Roxane will be checking emails and voicemails.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the church.

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

September

\$ 13,853.75 Income
\$(14,049.91) Expense
\$(196.16) Difference

YTD

\$ 128,597.45 Income 95.530%
\$(142,174.03) Expense (98.922)%
\$(13,576.58) Difference (3.392)%

We are thankful for your ongoing generous support.

Financial Trustees: Updates on the following issues:

1. Renewal of Pastor Deb McGuire's 2023 annual contract/Mission Study:

Mission Study information was completed and forwarded to Betty Delaney from the Presbytery of San Francisco. We are now awaiting feedback and/or questions from Ms. Delaney. It is our hope to submit the information for the November 2022 COM meeting or their review, comments, and/or approval.

2. Renewal of the Sikh Association multi-year lease:

Suggested updates to the lease were completed and forwarded to Marda Stothers at the Presbytery of San Francisco, who in turn forwarded the information to the Presbytery's Legal counsel for review.

3. Cleanup of the Bethany Church grounds:

The Trustees brought a recommendation to Session on 10/18/22 for a one-time cleanup of the entire Bethany grounds. This was approved and bids will now be requested for this work from appropriate landscape renewal contractors.

4. Bids received:

Replacement or repair of the patio outside the church building:

This project is currently on hold until January 2023. Bids will be reviewed and/or updated.

Price information about a new stove for Bethany was also reviewed.

5. Annual Stewardship Campaign for 2023:

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign will occur in November. Letters will be sent out to the congregation by early November. We will include information on how Bethany will be able to accept stock to fulfill donations.

Questions about the BPC budget or general Trustees questions? Contact Lyn Hughes - Chair - Financial Trustees, Dave Wales - Secretary, or Bonnie Morgan and Roxane Wales - Members at Large.

Questions about our tenant, the Sikh Association? Contact either the Financial Trustees (Lyn Hughes, Dave Wales, Bonnie Morgan and Roxane Wales) or Building and Grounds (Dave Wales)



Worship Committee

All Saints' Day/Remembrance Sunday

Bethany will be commemorating All Saints' Day and Remembrance Sunday on **November 6, 2022** during morning worship. On this Sunday, we will lift up the memories of those saints who have provided community, strength, and love to our lives. The congregation is invited to bring a picture or memento of those beloved people, and to place it on the communion table at the beginning of worship. There also will be an opportunity to light a candle in honor of the saints in our lives during the worship service. Please consider whom you want to honor in this way.

Advent Notes

Advent will begin on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, **November 27, 2022**. We will be celebrating each Sunday with the Advent Candle Lighting at the start of worship, and Worship Committee is looking for congregants who are willing to share their reflections on the theme of each Advent Sunday. The themes are as follows:

November 27 - Hope

December 4 - Peace

December 11 - Joy

December 18 - Love

December 24 - Christmas Eve - Light

December 25 - Light of Christ

If you are interested in providing a reflection for one of these Sundays, please contact Rev. Deb McGuire. She will provide assistance as needed, and Worship Committee encourages some new voices in this reflection time. Thanks in advance for sharing during this sacred time.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Bethany will celebrate Christmas Eve on Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm. There will be special music, Christmas hymn singing, and a time to share the light of Christ. The congregation is welcomed to stay afterwards for a cookie and hot cider reception.

Christmas Day will be celebrated on Sunday, December 25, during 10:00 am worship. More details to follow in December@Bethany. Please mark you calendars and plan to join in these joyous times of worship.

Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, November 14, at 6:30 pm at the church. It will be a hybrid meeting with some participants meeting in person in the sanctuary, and some meeting via Zoom. If you would like to join by Zoom, please let Tamra Hollenbeck know so we can send you the link. We are continuing with a book study of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community* by Adam Russell Taylor. The chapters we are reading for this month are in Part Three - "Beatitudes of the Beloved Community," chapters 11 - "Ubuntu Interdependence," and 12 - "Prioritizing Nonviolence." In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!

Prayer Time: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays: A time to meet as the body of Christ, and pray together using Zoom. Shared readings, poetry, guided meditation, and, of course, the prayers of the people. Please contact us to be invited to the Zoom meeting: bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org.



COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

Farewell Party for Ken and Roberta Henry

On Saturday, October 15, a wonderful farewell party was held for our dear friends, Ken and Roberta Henry. Just over 40 people joined in for an evening that included dinner, a Blessing Tree, music, and many fond memories since the Henry's came to Bethany 37 years ago. If you would like to send a card to Ken and Roberta but have not done so, the Henry's new address is 5810 73rd Ave, NE, Marysville, WA 98270

Mark Your Calendars for the Bethany Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Bethany's Annual Thanksgiving dinner will resume this year. The dinner will be held on **Saturday, November 19, at 6pm**. The church will provide the turkey, gravy, dressing, cranberry sauce, and beverages. Those attending can bring a side dish, such as a vegetable or vegetable casserole, mashed or sweet potatoes, bread or corn muffins, or a pie.

A signup sheet will be available **starting on October 30** so we have an idea of the number of people planning to attend and what you would like to bring for the dinner. Regular reminders will be announced. We hope you will join us for this wonderful church-wide event

News about our Partnership with Iglesias Brasiliana – San Mateo

At this time, we are not collecting **food items for IPB**. We will notify the congregation of further requests from our partner congregation.

News about our Partnership with Catholic Worker Hospitality House (CWHH) – San Bruno:

We continue to collect various food items and other supplies for CWHH. A complete list of food and other needs is on the Catholic Worker Hospitality House website at www.catholicworkerhospitalityhouse.org If you have donations, please place them in the CWHH basket in the Narthex, and we will ensure the items are delivered as soon as possible.

Since the weather has cooled down significantly, blankets/throws/quilts and coats/jackets/sweatshirts are needed, whether new or in good, used condition. We have also reached out to Peter Stiehler, Director at CWHH, asking if Christmas gifts/donations might be needed in December for the staff, transitional housing occupants, and/or shelter residents. More information will be provided in the WED@Bethany newsletter.

Any donations can be brought to the church or can be picked up by calling the church or Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event

We are looking into a meal packing event at Bethany for early in 2023. More information will be included in a future Bethany newsletter.

Pizza and Puzzles Night

Watch the newsletter for information about a Pizza and Puzzles Night early next year. Some wonderful ideas are being discussed, and it is great way for us all to get together and stay connected.

Advent Adult Education Opportunity **Make Peace**



Come join the Bethany community for an opportunity to learn about peace during this Advent Season. We will again be using the PC(USA) Follow Me curriculum studying their series called Make Peace. *Make Peace* focuses on Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9), which have been the centerpiece of Christian social ethics for centuries. People, throughout history and still today, have chosen different paths to peace, but certain skills of peacemaking have emerged from their journeys: cultivating inner peace, seeking to understand

where others are coming from, and having the courage to overcome fear. By practicing these skills, peacemakers work to embody Jesus' teachings in the midst of conflict. Explore God's vision for peace, true shalom, in this unit from *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. **We will meet at 7:00pm via zoom on Tuesday, November 29th, December 6th, Monday December 12th, and Tuesday December 20th.** Contact the church office or speak to Pastor Deb to sign up for the class and get your workbook! secretary@bethanypcusa.org or dmcguire@bethanypcusa.org

Christmas Card Writing

The Bethany Deacons will be hosting a Christmas card writing opportunity Sunday, December 4, after worship in the sanctuary. We will be writing cards to some of our members and friends who have not been able to attend worship for a while, and we hope to include card to veterans and/or active military personnel via a nonprofit agency. Christmas cards, pens, and postage will be provided. Please plan to join us for a time of sending holiday greetings and joy.

Bethany Story Time

We have a collection of children's books on our Facebook page! Over the past year (and a bit more!), Pastor Deb and various members of the congregation have recorded readings of children's books, and then Pastor Deb added video of the illustrations. The videos are available any time for you to enjoy! Share them with your family, friends, and neighbors! Find them here: <http://bethanypcusa.org/welcome/storytime.html>

November's birth flower, the chrysanthemum, recalls the vibrant colors of autumn leaves. A native of Asia with a history that dates back to 15th century B.C., chrysanthemum symbolism often originates from its original birthplace. Both the Chinese and Japanese consider mums a powerful emblem of youth. A symbol of the sun, the Japanese consider the orderly unfolding of the mum's petals to represent perfection. It's said that a single petal placed in the bottom of a glass of wine enhances longevity.



Happy Birthday to all our friends born in the month of November!

- 4 Laura Henry
- 5 Spencer Stark
- 11 Ken Henry
- 16 Liz Falejczyk
- 17 Piper Hollenbeck-Nicolosi
- 22 Andy Jones
- 26 Sharyl Weinshilbaum
- 26 Hannah Warfield



November Anniversaries

- 24 Robin & Nancy Crawford

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

- 4 John Vanderby
- 8 Betty Sweetman
- 15 Freda Lutz
- 17 Fallon Herndon



Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For the December newsletter: Tuesday, November 29th

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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MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS