

# October @ Bethany

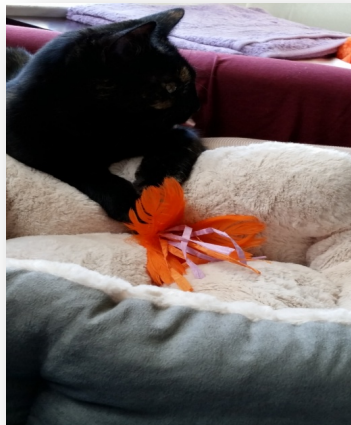
Bethany Presbyterian Church

***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.



*My Dear Bethany family,*

*Going from living in San Francisco to living in South San Francisco has been wonderful for me. Just the change in pace has been great. Having a place with a patio where I can keep some plants and flowers is such a delight. Having even a little bit of nature right outside my door feels so good. While it's not Golden Gate Park, or very large or full of variety, it has been such a joy to see my own little bit of nature right there. I feel like my two or three flowers have turned into some kind of gateway drug leading me to seek out even more of this thing called nature.*



*In the midst of such an unusual and anxiety provoking world, I struggle with how to remain sane, balanced, engaged and happy. It only re-occurred to me that after I've run out of things to say, and I've run out of ways to be, there's still nature. Nature is like listening to a favorite piece of music. You can approach it just as you are and let it take you to another place without doing anything. So many times I listen to pieces of music that I know and love and have performed and it's lovely. But I find that when I listen to something new to me I have more room to enjoy it. I don't have my performer's brain on, I don't re-live that great flute solo coming up, and I don't know what mood is coming up. When I walk in amongst some giant trees, or lay in soft grass, or walk in water, I have that same sense of freedom. I know it's wonderful and don't care why. That feeling is multiplied in the fall. The brilliance of the colors always strikes me as if for the first time.*

*What joy surprises you these days? Where do you go to find nature? Do you prefer a body of water, or a grove of trees, or a wide plain? Sometimes just a simple walk reminds me that I want more. As we approach the season of dramatic changes in nature, I'm reminded that some changes bring great beauty.*

*I hope we can find ways to be that beauty for one another during these times of so much change.*

*Blessings,  
Pastor Deb*

Dear friends and members of Bethany,

Thank you so much for the lovely post- church reception and farewell this past Sunday. It was so heartwarming and gracious. Bethany has had a very special place in our hearts and in our family for all of our 37 years here. Robin was ordained here, Char was born and baptized here, both children became members of this church, and we all grew in our love of God through our participation in Bethany.

It was so very good to see so many of you in person, and to hear the Bethany quartet. What a gift! We do hope to stay in touch with all of you. Lots of ways possible - phone, email, text, Zoom, road trips! ( we have a big 3 bedroom house) We've not left Bethany, just changed our connections.

Our new address is  
4613 Norcross Court SE  
Olympia, Washington 98501  
Thank you again,  
Nancy and Robin Crawford

## **SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 SESSION MEETING**

(by Zoom conference call 7:04 PM - 8:44 PM)

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer, lighting the Christ Candle and leading a meditation discussion about how we are using our origami paper box containing our hopes and dreams for BPC.

Roxane asked if anyone has information about the whereabouts and wellbeing of Bill Marsh since the last 2 BPC newsletters have been returned from his San Jose address as No Such Address. Please contact me or the BPC office if you have this info.

Financial Trustees report receiving over 90% of pledges for this quarter. They will begin preparing the 2021 budget after the September numbers are reported.

The Sikh Association, with the approval of Session, will begin the removal of the lower level, aging play structure and upgrade the ground surface.

We had a detailed discussion about Bethany grounds. It was moved, seconded & passed that the parking lot storage container may be sold. George Lynch will work on this.

A B&G Task Force (Dave W., Lyn H., Kathleen M.) will look into the possibility of hiring a landscaper to assist with evaluation of mid-parking lot medium shrubs/trees upkeep being mindful of memorial plantings, healing garden, shrubbery, parking lot surface, and removal of any dead trees.

The Community Life Committee will not host a Thanksgiving dinner this year but may use this time as a collection of non-perishable food for the SB Shelter.

The Outreach Committee is planning the implementation of a Little Library in the front patio area of BPC.

The Worship Committee is planning outdoor worship services on Oct. 4 and Nov. 1, along with Facebook Live.

Choir and Prayz are practicing on Wednesdays, and will sing in Worship on alternating Sundays

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 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](mailto:roxanewales@gmail.com).

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

## COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

### 1. **After much discussion, Community Life has decided we will forego the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the church this year**

However, so our congregation, friends, and family may contribute to our annual Thanksgiving collection for the San Bruno Shelter, we will have barrels available in our parking lot for nonperishable food and supply donations. We will have people at the church to assist those who would like to drive through the church parking lot and add their donations to the barrels.

**Please mark your calendar for Saturday, November 21, 2020 from 2pm to 4pm**

If you want to donate but are not available on November 21, 2020, please call Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667 to arrange for items to be picked up. No donation is too big or too small.

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

Iglesias Braziliana, a San Mateo congregation, has 140 families, 85% unemployment, and new babies. They need our help.

Bethany learned of their situation from Rev. Janet Bower and became their partner. We have now delivered multiple loads of household goods, baby items, nonperishable food, women's clothes, toiletries, and many cases of diapers and baby wipes. From the church's parking lot in San Mateo, there are distributions every Friday. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this ongoing effort.

Here is a list of items needed for the congregation:

Continued prayers

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

Baby clothes – Newborn through 6 mons: new or clean, used

Diapers – Newborn through 6 mons

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

Toiletries – all kinds

Target gift cards in any amount

Checks payable to Iglesias Braziliana (**To send a check, in any amount, make your check payable to Iglesias Braziliana and mail it to 194 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403**)

You can bring items for Iglesias Braziliana to Bethany Church; we will ensure they are delivered to San Mateo. You can also call Lyn Hughes and arrange for items to be picked up.

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**Christmas is right around the corner:**

We have also committed to providing **140** - \$25 Target cards (1 for each IB church family) at Christmas. Additionally, we will provide 40 toys for the children, babies through 10 years old, in addition to the gift cards. Please consider how you can help with our Christmas project for our partner.

In addition, the Trustees are considering a donation from Memorials to assist two young people from the church, Marco Abdala and Marina de Castro, to attend educational classes to become Commissioned Lay Pastors in the Presbyterian Church – PCUSA. The donation would allow them to attend classes offered by Escuela Latinoamericana de Estudios Teologicos. Further information will be provided once a decision has been made.

**3. Our Grant Request was Approved! Soon we will start the Bethany Presbyterian Church and Catholic Worker Hospitality House Food Distribution Partnership**

Our \$50,000 grant request was approved by the churches of the Presbytery of San Francisco on Saturday, September 12, 2020. It was a very exciting day, filled with hope, joy, and thanksgiving. We are now awaiting the grant check, which should be by October 1, 2020. We will begin to make future arrangements for food distributions soon.

**FINANCIAL TRUSTEES**

**August and YTD Financial Summary**

August Income \$10,190.00  
August Expense (\$11,946.62)  
Net \$ 1,756.62

YTD Income \$121,901.28 90.541%  
YTD Expense (\$121,901.20) (91.515%)  
Net \$ .08 ( .974%)

Continued thanks for mailing or bringing your offerings to the church. As we continue to move through 2020, we are successfully paying our staff and the church bills. You are making the difference in these unprecedented times. Your support is appreciated.

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)





***Building and Grounds has rescheduled the Work Day*** (pray for clean air) for **Saturday October 3**, from **9 am to 12 pm** -- Pandemic appropriate snacks and coffee will be provided.

If you are uncomfortable with groups, or the time doesn't work for you, you are free to come up to church anytime to perform tasks. You may call Dave Wales to arrange. Dave's #650-303-1064.

***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 Rina Ranahan: (650) 291-6979.

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



***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

**Happy Birthday to all those born in October!**

- 2 Amulen Rozmus
- 3 Kathryn Quickert
- 5 Chris Angeles
- 14 Kathleen Fogle
- 14 Kristina May
- 15 Frank Goodwin
- 22 Catie and Sally Lyons



**October Anniversaries**

- 9 Fred & Pam Matthews
- 11 David & Roxane Wales

**We remember these Saints of Bethany who were born in October:**

- 2 Willie Mitchell
- 19 Orville Wycoff
- 26 Gladys Crandall
- 26 Al Sweetman



**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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