

September@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 friends,

I only wish this was the kind of painting I was able to do. This is called [The heather blowing in the September breeze](#) (High Moor, North Yorkshire), by Oona Campbell.

George Arnold, a 19th century essayist, journalist and poet, died young (just 33) but not before he wrote several poems about nature. Here's what he said about September:

Does September bring out the poet in you, or the painter? Maybe it just bring out the busy in you – the one who needs to get calendars ready, books purchased, writing and adding supplies, pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, fresh paper, multi-colored pens and post-its for all of the note taking coming up?

“O sweet September, thy first breezes bring the dry leaf’s rustle and the squirrel’s laughter. The cool fresh air whence health and vigor spring and promise of exceeding joy hereafter.”

What comes to mind for you at this time of year? What creative endeavor might you be a part of these days?

Bethany is full of activities this month. Here are just a few that you will see more about in this newsletter.

September 4th – we will be starting the Season of Peace, which will be the launch of the Peace Making and Global Witness offering for this year.

September 12th – the Ruth Covenant Group will meet.

September 16th – movie night!

September 18th – Welcome to Fall celebration! (We could wear our Opening Day t-shirts!)

Also, the Committee on Ministry work is continuing, with our next steps being assisted by our liaison from the Presbytery, Jenny Warner, whom some of you may have met at our first workshop. The trustees and buildings and grounds continue to keep up with the property and lease items and more. Look for activities also, from Outreach and Community Life.

“When [Frederick] Buechner gave the Noble Lectures at Harvard in the winter of 1969, he articulated what became the hallmark of his life work — the conviction that if God speaks to us at all, it is in the everyday events of an ordinary life.”¹

(<https://www.journeywithjesus.net/lectionary-essays/current-essay> Debi Thomas)

Come, enjoy some grace filled ordinary life with us!



Blessings,
Pastor Deb



Pastor Nominating Committee: The Bethany Presbyterian Church congregation and the Session/Financial Trustees have held several workshops to answer questions required to complete a Mission Study, a major step in the process of calling a permanent pastor. Using information gathered in these sessions, a Mission Study will soon be written, and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will be called into service. The PNC must be comprised of members of the church, and Session is seeking 3-4 people who would be willing to serve. If you are interested in being a part of this process, please contact Roxane Wales, Tamra Hollenbeck, or the church office. If you have any questions about what the process involves, please ask Pastor Deb. Thanks for your willingness to consider this prospect!

Ruth Covenant Group: After its summer break, the Ruth Covenant Group will hold its next monthly meeting on Monday, September 12 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 Two - "Building Blocks of the Beloved Community," chapters 7 and 8 - "Overcoming Toxic Polarization" and "Redeeming Patriotism." For those of us who haven't quite completed the reading of the other chapters, now is a good chance to catch up!! In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!



Welcome to Fall! Bethany will celebrate our entry into Fall with a "Welcome to Fall" Worship Service on Sunday, September 18. The Chancel Choir will be presenting its first musical offerings after a summer break, and Prayz will also be presenting. Please plan to join in for a service of joy and celebration as we gather together and greet one another with the love of Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. (The Chancel Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:30 pm.)



Peacemaking and World Communion Sunday: Bethany will be celebrating Peacemaking/World Communion Sunday on Sunday, October 2. On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, and we are not alone.

Our congregation will be participating in the Peacemaking Offering, now called the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Sunday, September 4 marks the day that A Season of Peace begins, and we will be dedicating the Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Of the funds collected, 25% will remain with Bethany to support our own efforts towards peacemaking. We will be partnering with local students by sponsoring an essay writing opportunity about what A Season of Peace might look like. Stay tuned for more about that. Offering envelopes will be made available at the church beginning September 4, and will be provided throughout this Season of Peace. Please prayerfully consider supporting this offering, which allows the Presbyterian Church both locally and abroad, to help those struggling through oppression and injustice. May Christ's peace be a part of all of your days.

August 16, 2022 SESSION MEETING

Meeting held via Zoom - 7:04 PM - 8:29 PM.

Present: Ken Henry, Pam Matthews, Kathryn Quickert, Dave Wales, Pastor Deb, Roxane Wales

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer followed by a shared meditation.

The July 19th meeting minutes were approved and Roxane gave an update of the Nominating Committee's work toward filling the Session and Deacons positions for 2023. At this time, Dave Wales will be leaving Session but will remain as Chair of B&G, George Lynch will come onto Session as Chair of Personnel and Lyn Hughes will come onto Session and continue as Chair of Community Life & Action Committee.

Pam, Ken and Berta have been working with the San Mateo County Election Registrar to see if BPC will qualify to be a voting location for San Bruno.

Applause for the people that represented BPC for a community event to prepare Parkside Middle School for the school year. We hope to find other activities like this to make BPC visible in the San Bruno community.

Deb will share a webinar she was part of called "What's Next for the Offering Plate?" Ken reported that BPC finances are doing just fine right now. He is working on plans to have the main patio at the church entrance either leveled or replaced. Further info re cost and plan to come. Dave reported that PGE will contact us regarding the plans for taking out some dead trees in the easement. We will proceed with plans for having the dead trees taken out that are our responsibility. Also, Dave will speak with the Sikh Association about good stewardship of the BPC grounds of which they use.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022 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

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 our website:

<http://bethanypcusa.org/we-do/shelter-needs.html>

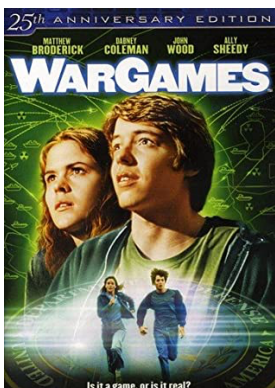
Did you know?

Dear community: I have been thinking that all of you may have something you could contribute to this slot in our wonderful, Wednesday's at Bethany once a month. I haven't received much feedback over the months so I am wondering if anybody else has something to share about navigating in our challenging world of climate change and care of the earth? I am thinking about something that would help each one of us make better decisions or take actions that represent our faith and our need for HOPE in this time. Let me know if you have an idea and I am willing to research and write it up, or just send it to me! Thank you – Pam Matthews

COMMUNITY ACTION/LIFE COMMITTEE

- **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. 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. As the weather becomes cooler, blankets, coats and jackets will be needed, whether new or in good, used condition. Any donations can be brought to the church or can be picked up by calling the church or Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.
- **Having a church-wide Thanksgiving dinner** is still under discussion. We hope to have a decision by the October Newsletter release so plans can be made as needed and communications sent to everyone.

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.



Movie Night: "War Games" (1983, PG) – "A young computer whiz kid accidentally connects into a top secret super-computer which has complete control over the U.S. nuclear arsenal. It challenges him to a game between America and Russia, and he innocently starts the countdown to World War 3. Can he convince the computer he wanted to play a game and not the real thing?"—Colin Tinto(cst@imdb.com) This is really an ANTI-war movie! BYO movie snacks and drinks! (We use closed captions whenever available for those who are hearing impaired, and for those of us who just like having captions!)

July

\$ 10,473.75 Income
\$(13,685.84) Expense
\$(3,212.09) Difference

YTD

\$ 101,894.95 Income 97.320%
\$(104,933.84) Expense (98.558)%
\$(3,038.89) Difference (1.238)%

We are thankful for your generous, ongoing support.

The Trustees are working on the following issues:

1. Renewal of Pastor Deb McGuire's annual contract for 2023 with Bethany which also included discussion with Marda Stothers from PoSF whose role is Partner of Mission and Church Assets. Ms. Stothers provided her initial thoughts after a review of our current contract and will assist the Trustees and Session with the pastor's contract renewal.
2. Work on the Mission Study draft regarding finances such as our overall financial condition and outlook for the future.
3. Renewal of the Sikh Association multi-year lease including review by the Legal Dept. by the Presbytery of San Francisco. The Trustees and Pastor Deb met on Monday, August 22, and went over the current lease, noting areas that will need updates. In addition, at the suggestion of PoSF, a formal email was sent to the Sikh Association letting them know we are working on the lease renewal and our intent to sit down with them to review the draft once updates are ready.
4. Review of funds available for continued cleanup of the Bethany grounds.
5. Review of the bids received for replacement and/or repair of the patio outside of the church building.

Questions about the BPC budget? Contact Ken Henry-Chair-Financial Trustees, Lyn Hughes-Treasurer, Dave Wales-Secretary or Bonnie Morgan-Member at Large.

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

The flowers for the month of September are the Aster and the morning glory. Also known as starworts or frost flowers, asters are a symbol of all-powerful love, affection and wisdom. Asters are available in many colors, but are most commonly found with pink, white, red, mauve or lilac blooms. Like the aster, the morning glory also symbolizes unrequited love. They flowers petals open in the morning, hence the name morning glory, to show off their beautiful, star-like centers.



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>

Happy Birthday to all those born in September!

- 2 Hannah Matthews
- 2 Sharon Gruner
- 2 Luna Mae Nicolosi
- 7 Tamra Hollenbeck
- 9 Janine Bullis
- 18 Paul Delander
- 19 Garry Cox
- 21 Elin Abbott
- 22 Aurora Nicolosi
- 23 Judi Richards
- 25 John Lee
- 26 Sue Bullis
- 27 Madeleine Gruner



September Anniversaries

- 9 Aaron Schurk & Jamie Golden
- 12 Piper & Billy Nicolosi
- 19 Graham & Judi Richards
- 22 Mitch & Mary Fontaine
- 22 Sarah & Spencer Stark
- 27 Craig & Eddy Bray

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

- 3 Bill Anderson
- 8 Lavonne Bullis
- 14 Charlie Rice
- 14 Ethel Pollett
- 14 Kurt Liedtke
- 19 John Marsh
- 21 Peter Lawson

Due Dates

For W@B: Tuesday morning.

For the October newsletter: Tuesday, September 27th

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>



2400 Rosewood Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066
(650) 589-3711 ~ bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org
Website: bethanypcusa.org



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