
August @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 4:00 PM

Happy August Bethany!
IT'S HAPPENING!

On August 10th of 2019, George sent me an email about picking me up at San Bruno BART the next day so that I could be your guest preacher on August 11th. When George made that first cold call to invite me, I said no because I didn't have a ready way to do pulpit supply outside of San Francisco, but if he couldn't find anyone, he should call me back. He did call back, and in what I have come to know as true Bethany fashion, he made it work.

After a joyful ride with George and Ollie, and after a beautiful, gentle, friendly and helpful welcome by Bonnie, the liturgist for the day, I met many of you. Bonnie showed me the grounds, and explained about the mural. At that point in my life, I had been regular pulpit supply at many different churches, one at a time, and was not looking for a permanent pastor position. I just didn't think there was a church out there that I would want to be committed to. But when I left Bethany after my first time

here, I was a little dismayed to discover that I felt so attached. "Too bad I'm not looking for a pastor job, because I think that's a church I could enjoy." I loved especially the powerful witness of a group of people who turned to art in the most grievous time of pain. I was a little mad about these strong feelings I had, because I couldn't *not* pay attention. I didn't share my feelings with anyone – no need to get anyone else involved, who might then encourage me, and then, well, who knows what might happen!

George called after my second pulpit supply opportunity with you, and asked if I would apply for the transitional pastor position you were offering. I said, "Well, funny you should ask. Let me tell you about my first impression of Bethany that day." Later he asked if I could put together a resume by the next day because a few people wanted to meet me. I asked if this was a job interview or a chat and he said, oh, no big deal, a few people want to meet you. The next day, 11 people and I met for a 2-hour "non-interview."

Here we are three-plus years and a global pandemic later and you are about to install your next permanent pastor! This may be a big day for me, but it's a *huge* day for you, the people of Bethany now, as well as your ancestors who have nurtured Bethany from the beginning. Congratulations to all of you for all of the love and work that sustains not only calling a pastor, but maintaining the community.

For me, being "installed" sounds like I am a refrigerator, or dish washer, or that pesky new plumbing fixture. Thus the construction graphic above. For a time, using the word "installation" was in question, so we tried to come up with names like "The Non-Installation of our New Pastor." Thus the crossed out word "installation." Being playful and purple, well that's just me...with help from Cathleen!

Please plan to come and share in the excitement and fun on September 3rd at 4pm!
In gratefulness for God's work,
— (not-Transitional) Pastor Deb

Deacons' Fall Luncheon September 24



The Bethany Deacons will be hosting a Fall Luncheon on Sunday, September 24 to celebrate the return from summer and the start of the church's fall activities. The Chancel Choir will resume presenting music during worship, and the congregation will be continuing our celebration of Deb being our permanent pastor! Please plan to join in as we enjoy the bounty that fall brings into our lives!

Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting at the church on Monday, August 14th at 6:30 pm. We are continuing to read *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight* by Wayne Muller and will focus on the chapter entitled "Happiness," pages 123-153. We ask that, as you read, maybe highlight portions that really speak to you and be ready to share your thoughts. In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend! Nancy Crawford will be in town and hopes to join us in person!!

Worship Notes

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 and present music during worship on Sunday, September 24. If singing is something that calls to you, please consider joining in!

In the fall, we enter the season of Peacemaking. World Communion is celebrated on October 1, and we will be kicking off our focus on Peace and Global Witness throughout October. Peacemaking offerings will be dedicated on 10/29/23. More details will be available in October.

Following Peacemaking, we will focus on Stewardship and Thanksgiving during the month of November. And beginning in December, the Season of Advent will be upon us!! We are so grateful for the faithfulness of the congregation in their continued and steadfast support of Bethany as we move through these seasons of the Christian calendar. It is wonderful to have the traditions to look forward to and to welcome new ideas and thoughts as we expand our understanding of what God has in store for us as a community. Hallelujah!!



**Bethany Church Barbecue
Outside on the Patio
Saturday, August 12
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Bring your picnic favorites to share:
Something to grill, potato salad,
baked beans, veggie tray, fruit salad,
dessert, etc.

We will provide:
Chicken, grilled veggies, drinks,
ice, tableware, and the grill.

Summer Music Plans through September 17, 2023

Hi all! Summer is here, and the music at Bethany continues to provide joy and inspiration! There are usually 3 music slots - introit, anthem, and offertory - and sometimes a postlude. It would be great to have some new voices and configurations during the summer months - soloists, duets, trios, instrumentals, and other kinds of music. Jessica Reddell Popovich, our Director of Music, and the Prayz Band will be presenting music most Sundays, however they will NOT present if someone else has something to share. Anyone is welcome to sing with Prayz during the summer (and anytime!!), so if that sounds fun to you, just show up in the sanctuary on Wednesday nights at 6. Maybe check in with Tamra or Craig if you would like to join in just to make sure we are indeed presenting something. Jessica has requested two weeks notice for musical selections from others so she knows which pieces she needs to prepare for. There is a sign-up list in the narthex awaiting your name! Hope to hear from you!!



- Further discussion occurred about how Bethany can assist with the Silicon Valley Second Harvest effort. Volunteers are needed at Belle Air Elementary School in San Bruno (SBPSD) the 4th Wednesday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00 pm for a Food Bank Grocery Distribution which typically services approx. 270 families. There are also opportunities to help with food distributions at Skyline College. Check out <https://www.shfb.org> for more information on how to volunteer or to read what is being done about food insecurity in San Mateo County.

- Community Action and the Deacons are going to work together to provide 25-30 toiletry bags to the Catholic Worker Hospitality House in San Bruno in August 2023. We will pack these bags after a church service near the end of August. If you have/would like to donate any of the following items, please bring to the church or call Lyn Hughes to pick them up: Toothbrushes, small toothpaste tubes, bars of soap, washcloths, Kleenex packets, combs, shampoo, conditioner, band aids, and nail files or emery boards.
- Additionally, Community Action and the Deacons are going to collect school supplies, and provide 25 backpacks for Allen School in San Bruno. We are thinking “kindergarten” aged supplies. Please plan to have any school supplies or backpack donations to Bethany by **AUGUST 25**. Supply List: pencils, colored pencils, 16-24 box crayons, small Elmer’s glue bottles, erasers, rulers, small safety scissors, etc.
- Continued communication with Peter Stiehler at Catholic Worker Hospitality House for needs they may have at their facilities. Current needs include: Oatmeal, paper napkins, toilet tissue, canned soup, canned fruit, milk, butter or margarine, sliced bread, soup spoons, new or unused shampoo, new unopened disposable razors, socks, and new or clean, used bath towels.

Birthdays

- 5 - Leslie Olson
- 8 - Abby Cardoza
- 8 - Randy Johansen

Anniversaries

- 16 - Andy and Melinda Jones
- 26 - Clarie and Tamra Hollenbeck



August
BIRTHDAYS

Session Highlights - July 18, 2023

Pastor's Report by Rev. Deb McGuire:

- Meeting was opened in prayer, lighting of the Christ candle, and devotion on Isaiah 55:10-13
- On July 9, Elaine Tennant was baptized and became a member of BPC. Welcome, Elaine!
- Cathleen is designing a postcard inviting BPC close neighbors to Aug. 12 BBQ and is updating our brochures.
- Rev. Deb is creating lots of activities for kids and Deacons' are purchasing 5 Hands On Bibles.
- Provided pastoral care for the congregation, prepared Worship sermons, attended Presbytery meetings, wrote for monthly bulletins.

Financial Trustees Report by Lyn Hughes:

- Discussion regarding sanctuary/piano rental. Tabled to receive further information.
- Received plan from Sikh Association regarding outside structure to be built to house a cooking area.

Buildings and Grounds Report by Dave Wales:

- Overall shrub and tree trimming has begun. Deb took Elders on a "field trip" to show what neighbors would like regarding yard work of places that affect their property.
- Craig and Fred are working on building fascia maintenance using scaffolding.

Community Action/Life & Outreach Report by Lyn Hughes:

- Barbecue planned for August 12.
- Toiletry bags and school supply bags will be assembled after upcoming services.

Personnel Report by George Lynch:

- Congratulations to George for planning retirement at the end of August!

Worship Report by Pam Matthews:

- Planning of Deb's Installation - Sept. 3.

No August Session meeting. Next Session meeting - September 19, 2023 @ 5:30 PM.



Monthly events at Bethany

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am
Coffee Hour 11:00 am
(rehearsals start 8:30 am)

Wednesdays: Prayz 6:00 pm
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings.

Submissions for the September newsletter:
Thursday, August 24

1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service

2nd Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am

2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm

3rd Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am

3rd Monday: Financial Trustees 4:30 pm

3rd Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm

Buildings & Grounds,
Community Action committees
- as scheduled

Financial Trustees

Financial Items:

- **Continued contact with our tenant, the Sikh Association.** Plans for an outside cooking structure were received which do not require a permit. Work on the structure has begun but is in the early stages. Monthly calendars from the Sikhs are now being received.
- **Grounds Clean-Up and Other Building Issues** – The cleanup effort began on June 27 and is nearly complete with a few items that still need attention. There are some broken tree branches which will be removed. Additional trimming work on the west hill will be done as a Phase 2 project. We have asked for a final bill once the tree trimming has occurred. We have also asked for a proposal for ongoing grounds maintenance so we can keep the grounds in good condition ongoing. An other possible project is transition to solar energy.
 - Work in progress: In an effort to have a secure parking lot, the **Session will implement safety measures which included cameras, chains across the entrance and exit** when the building is not being used by Bethany or the Sikh Association, and additional signs regarding access to the property.
 - In progress: **Room 9 clean-up and removal of various large items** in anticipation of this room's being used for evening meetings; also discussion about new window treatments in this room.
 - Discussion regarding **possible kitchen updates:** possible new or refaced cabinets, and an island replacement or update. **A Kitchen Update Committee was formed** (Lyn Hughes, Tamra Hollenbeck, Roxane Wales, and Chris Angeles). More information will be forthcoming once we review what needs to be done and create a proposal for the updates.
- **Update to Pastor Deb McGuire's contract:** Deb's contract is being updated since Deb will become our Pastor rather than our Transitional Pastor. This effort will also result in a change to her current contract as a Medical Reimbursement will be added to her regular paycheck each month, and this will also become a 2024 budget addition.
- **Sound system and electronics updates:** a proposal was received from George Lynch regarding replacements, updates, and some possible repairs to maintain our sound and electronic equipment. The Session voted to go ahead and further information will be provided once the project begins. Pricing and procurement is now underway.
- **Organ repair** – due to an unexpected event, some issues occurred to the organ, and we are contacting someone to perform the needed repairs which after further review, look to be minor but need attention. There were no issues found with the grand piano.
- We are also reviewing some **credit card opportunities for the church.**
- **Patio repair** – on hold until mid-summer; a suggestion was made to include a labyrinth in the new patio.
- **Roof/siding repair** – it was brought to the Session's attention by Craig Bray and Fred Matthews that repairs are needed on a certain section of the roof edging, and the repair was originally estimated at about \$1,000. However, due to the fact that scaffolding will be needed to make the repairs, the estimate has increased to \$2,500 - \$3,000. Session approved the expense and the repairs are now underway.
- **On-line giving opportunities** – calls will be made to find out how to offer this service including to Congregational Church in San Mateo (CCSM) who implemented this service in the past year.

June		Year-to-Date		
\$31,962.90	Income	\$100,326.33	Income	97.774%
-\$20,096.87	Expense	-\$106,205.65	Expense	-100.445%
-\$11,866.03	Difference	-\$5,879.32	Difference	-2.671%

At the year's halfway mark, we continue to stay within budget. We appreciate your faithful giving!

Our 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.

Our 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 are already welcome here.
We invite you, on your unique spiritual journey,
to join us in the life and ministry of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Bethany Presbyterian Church

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