
February @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



If I were good at making logos, this would be my logo for Bethany for 2023. Unfortunately, I'm not good at making them so I'll just have to stick with the words alone.

Lead with Love has to do with the feeling you get *after* a conversation, when the person reveals a little more about what was on their mind. Their family struggles, their past experience with the subject matter, their current mindset, maybe a trigger point in the conversation, a vulnerability. I find myself saying, "Oh, I didn't know that." I try to be ready to be incorrect or redirected from any assumptions I also had *before* the conversation. That new feeling of understanding either makes me back off of my intensity, or my worry or frustration, or change

directions completely. **That new feeling of understanding is what I'm calling love.** Instead of *ending* a discussion with this new discovery, *begin* the discussion – *open with the assumption* – that each person brings something to the table that we don't know about or understand. Leading with love means, pretend you already know that there are things you don't know. Pretend you come to the conversation with that feeling of understanding already in place and see if you notice your conversations changing.

Leading with Grace has to do with the same sort of thing, but it is harder. Leading with grace most often needs to happen when we know the discussion will be difficult. Difficult conversations have to happen. We all know how it works when we avoid engaging things we really need to get to. Then, when we finally do decide to engage the subject, we start out with an attitude of defensiveness, fear masked as anger, already prepped and ready to fight. This makes perfect sense because we want to understand more, we need to protect ourselves and our interests. Often, after the difficult part is over we discover that the picture was bigger than we thought; the responsible party wasn't who or what we thought; the solution was exactly what we wanted but took longer. We learn more after the fact that, had we known earlier, we would not have acted or worried or said as we had. This is Grace. Leading with Grace means, pretend you already know that there are things that you don't know. Pretend you come to the conversation maybe a little guarded, but not with fists raised. Pretend there is an option for a good outcome. Allow yourself that hope.

There is nothing Pollyanna about this kind of leading. I am not pretending that outcomes will all be good, disaster will always be avoided. But with just a moment of awareness of the other, before we engage, some hurt or offense might be avoided.

Christ calls us to community and that means relationships. With strong relationships as a foundation, we can reach the heavens!

As always, let's talk.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb



January 17, 2023 Session Meeting

Meeting held at Bethany: 7:07 PM - 9:01 PM

Present: Lyn Hughes, George Lynch, Pam Matthews, Dave Wales, Pastor Deb Maguire, Roxane Wales, Clerk

Excused: Kathy Quickert and Dave Wales

Pastor Deb opened the meeting in prayer followed by lighting of the Christ Candle and devotion from Spiritual Wisdom from a Celtic World.

Clerk's Report by Roxane:

- The December 20, 2022 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.
- Waiting for a call back from CoDA (CoDependent Anonymous) group leader regarding use of Room 9 by the CoDA group which was okayed at the 12/20/22 meeting.
- After discussion it is agreed that we would try out having Session meetings begin at 4:30 PM.

Pastor's Report by Deb:

- Request for time off May 15-22 (with Study Leave May 15-19). Pulpit Supply 5/21. Granted.
- Planning Ash Wednesday (2/22) service.
- 2023 Focus: Church growth will happen as we go out into the community.

Financial Trustees Report by Lyn:

- 2023 budget is in place with salary hikes.
- Still waiting for Sikh lease revision by Presbytery attorney.
- Discussion regarding new stove hook up. Aaron Schurk will set up a gas connection then PGE will be scheduled to check safety.

Buildings & Grounds Report by Dave:

- Mitch Fontaine made a large downspout for BPC and refused payment so we are giving him a \$200 Disneyland gift card.
- Also, thanks to Craig Bray and Fred Matthews for installation.

Community Action/Life/Outreach Report by Lyn:

- Planning 1/21/23 Pizza & Puzzle night.
- It was agreed to move Fellowship Time back to the long table in the sanctuary.
- Awaiting for further information on Rise Against Hunger.
- Discussion about how we can promote more environmental awareness. Write letters, ideas to motivate corporations, host environmental Show & Tell.

Personnel Report by George:

- Cathleen Torres has been hired as Administrative Assistant. Yay!
- Discussion about having regular staff meetings.

Worship Report by Pam:

- Experimenting with placement of announcements and postlude.

Our next Session Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 4:30 PM in person at BPC.

If you have any questions before then, please contact Roxane Wales at 650-303-2070 or roxanewales@gmail.com.

-R.Wales, Clerk of Session

Financial Trustees

We are truly grateful for the support you demonstrated throughout 2022 and for the new year, 2023.

Here are updates on the following issues:

1. **Renewal of Pastor Deb McGuire's 2023 Annual Contract/Mission Study:** We renewed Pastor Deb McGuire's Transitional Pastor contract effective January 1, 2023 and we continue to work on completing the steps provided by the Presbytery of San Francisco toward our goal Pastor Information Form, including an updated job description which has been drafted, and the Mission Information Form (formerly called the Church Information Form). We continue to work towards having all the information requested from PofSF as soon as possible, but hopefully no later than February 2023.
2. **All Bethany employees received a modest salary increase for 2023 as well as all employees received a Christmas bonus** on their December 15, 2022 paycheck. A big thank you goes out to our employees who continue to do their jobs to the best of their ability. It is a pleasure working with you!
3. **Renewal of the Sikh Association Multi-Year Lease (2023 – 2027):** Michael Glass, legal counsel for the Presbytery of San Francisco, provided an updated Sikh Association lease on January 17, 2023. The Trustees are reviewing the lease and plan to have it signed no later than the end of January. The updated lease provides for an option to renew the lease again after five years which will save time in the future. Both parties will need to agree to the updated terms and conditions, and a PofSF representative will also need to sign the lease.
4. **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 recommendation was approved. The Trustees will request bids for this project soon once appropriate landscape renewal contractors are identified.
5. **Bids Received and Action Taken**
 - a. **Replacement or Repair of the Patio Outside the Church Building:** This project has been on hold but will be re-addressed in early 2023. Bids will be reviewed and/or updated so the work can be started on the patio.
 - b. **Replacement of Kitchen Stove/Removal of Non-Working Stoves:** Stove was selected, purchased, and installed in our kitchen. The two older stoves in the middle of the kitchen were removed and taken away by the company who sold us the stove. Many thanks to all who assisted with getting the new stove in place, especially to Aaron Schurk for all his assistance in getting this project completed in a timely manner.
6. **Annual Church Budget for 2023:** The Session approved the 2023 budget at their December meeting. The budget included a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for our Pastor, Director of Music, and Webmaster, as well as a salary necessary to hire the Administrative Assistant (this position was filled on January 17, 2023 by Cathleen Torres). In addition, there is a new expense category for Building and Grounds Projects, which includes the grounds cleanup as well as fixing part of the roof overhang on the south side of the church roof. Additionally, there are plans to update some of the office equipment, as well as some miscellaneous other projects. Questions can be directed to Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.
7. **Removal of Old Equipment/Furniture at Bethany:** An effort is underway to remove various equipment, such as unusable old pianos in Room 9, and items in storage under the stairs that will not be used in the future. These are items that can't be donated so must be hauled away. George Lynch is heading this effort. If questions, please contact George at (650) 580-4123 or Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

Questions about the BPC budget or general Trustees questions? Contact

Lyn Hughes – Chair, Financial Trustees
Dave Wales - Secretary
Bonnie Morgan and Roxane Wales - Members at Large

Questions about our tenant, the Sikh Association? Contact

Financial Trustees - **Lyn Hughes, Dave Wales, Bonnie Morgan, and Roxane Wales**
 Buildings and Grounds - **Dave Wales**

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Financial Trustees, cont.

December

\$39,607.83	Income
(\$8,821.16)	Expense
\$30,786.67	Difference

Year-to-Date

\$190,378.11	Income	106.068%
(\$173,839.91)	Expense	(95.360%)
\$16,538.20	Difference	10.708%

*Note: December income included two annual pledges and one final quarterly pledge payment bringing 2022 income in excess of our original planned 2022 budget. We received an additional 10% over our 2022 budget for the year. Our checking account also has a positive balance going into 2023.

Community Life

Pizza and Puzzles Night

Our Pizza and Puzzles Night was held on Saturday, January 21. We built jigsaw puzzles, enjoyed a pizza dinner, listened to music, and had a great time together. There are definitely some great puzzle builders in our midst, and it became quite a competition. Twenty people joined in the fun! Look for Community Action events in the future.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event or Similar Event

We are still looking into a meal-packing event to attend in the Bay Area or something similar. It costs quite a bit of money to host an event and you must have 40 volunteers ready to participate when you sign up. Information about this type of event will be included in future Bethany Newsletter articles.



Community Action

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.

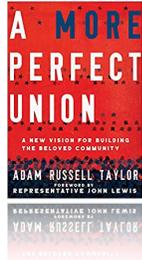
The Shelter needs blankets, throws, quilts, coats, jackets, and sweatshirts, either new or in good, used condition.

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



Ruth Covenant Group

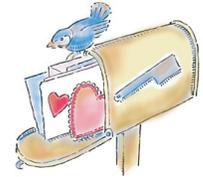
The Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting on Monday, February 13, 6:30 pm at the church. It will be a hybrid meeting with some participants meeting in person in the sanctuary, and some meeting via zoom. If you would like to join by zoom, please let Tamra Hollenbeck know so we can send you the link. We will finish our 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 Chapter 13 and the epilogue, both chapters that help us put some of the ideas from the book into action in our own lives. We will spend a few minutes discussing what we will study next, so please come with some



ideas of what might interest you. In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!

Valentine's Day Card Writing

The Bethany Deacons will be hosting a Valentine's Day Card writing opportunity in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 5th after worship. We will be writing cards to some of our members and friends who have not been able to attend worship for a while. Valentine cards, stickers, paper and doilies, pens, and postage will be provided. Please plan to join us for a time of sending Valentine greetings and joy!



New Stove

Hey, everyone! A minor miracle has occurred in the kitchen at Bethany. Thanks to the efforts of many people and the generosity of the Quickert family, Bethany has a brand new, highly functioning stove. It has been installed, hooked up, checked by PG&E, and is ready for use!! Extra special thanks to Aaron Schurk, grandson of Bill and Skip Quickert and son of Kathy Quickert, for his expert help in disconnecting the old stoves and refitting the new one. Also, special thanks to Dave Wales and George Lynch for their expert efforts in taking the two old stoves apart (and allowing Tamra Hollenbeck to try her hand at demolition!!) and getting them ready for removal; to Jorie Abbott and her company Trimarck for finding us the stove that fits our needs and removing the old stoves; Roxane Wales, Lyn Hughes, Bonnie Morgan, Pam Matthews, and Tamra for reinvigorating the process that was postponed when the pandemic hit; and big thanks to the Quickerts for their generosity. There is a lot to be grateful for! A blessing and celebration of the new stove will be planned in the not too distant future, and will probably involve some cookie baking! Keep your ears and eyes open for more details about that event. For now, stop by the kitchen when you're at the church, and take a peek at our newest appliance! And maybe even give a little shout of "Hallelujah!: while you're there!

Many Thanks!!!

After many years of service and countless hours of helping to care for others in our congregation, Bonnie Morgan, Deacon extraordinaire, has stepped away from her official role of Deacon and Deacon Treasurer. She has done a fantastic job of connecting with people in her parish, making sure their needs are being met, delivering flowers and cards to people who are sick or sad, and providing accurate and concise information about the Deacons' finances. She will be greatly missed on the Deacons' Board, however she states she will be available to help as needed whenever called open. In fact, at our monthly meeting in February, Kathy Fogle, our Deacon moderator, sent the meeting notification to Bonnie, as she has been doing for years, and Bonnie showed up!! Many thanks to Bonnie for the love and joy she shares so willingly with so many. Blessings upon her as she continues to find new ways to serve Bethany and our community.



Adult Education

Practice Generosity is the title of our Lenten Adult Ed this year. While English dictionaries define the term as, "a readiness to give more of something than is necessary or expected, that is, out of one's abundance", biblical teachings describe the practice as one rooted in justice and concerned with all of humanity's needs. Generosity looks after the welfare of our neighbor's mind, body, spirit, and life in community. Jesus' ministry is a practice of generosity. With his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus gives both from the abundance of his divinity and within the limits of his humanity. The grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit not only propel but compel us as followers in our practice of generosity from both our abundance and our limits. More than money, the Bible offers many aspects of generosity. Four aspects we will explore are resources, wisdom, justice, and power. Generosity is not a kindness. It is an expectation. It is a practice of love in action for God and our neighbor. As his followers, we build on his tradition and continue his mission in our gratitude for God's grace.



Please join us on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on the following dates:
February 28, March 7, March 14, March 28
(**Note:** No class on Tuesday, March 21)

Please call the church office, or contact Cathleen or Deb to reserve your book that we will use for the study!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by reflection, preparation, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent is a time each year where we have an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. We hope you will join us at 7:00 pm on February 22 for Bethany's Ash Wednesday service.



(Photo and text credit: <https://mchurch.com/2021/02/ash-wednesday-service-at-home/>)

Monthly events at Bethany

Sundays: Worship at 10:00 am; coffee hour 11:00 am
(rehearsals start 8:30 am)

Wednesdays: Rehearsals – Prayz 6:00 pm, Chancel
Choir 7:30 pm; Prayer Time 6:30 pm

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 7:00 pm

Buildings & Grounds, Community Action committees
– as scheduled

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings.

Submissions for the March newsletter:

Tuesday, February 21

Looking ahead to Lent - save the dates!

April 2 - Palm Sunday | April 9 - Easter Sunday

February Birthdays	Happy Anniversary!
<p>4 - Kenny Parker 5 - Aaron Jones 5 - Susan Gartner May 6 - Thomas Abbott 8 - William Warfield 10 - Tyler Bray 11 - Amy & Mia Kumimoto 12 - Gary Bullis</p> <p>15 - Robin Parker 17 - Jack Parker Ellefson 20 - Mitchell Gruner 21 - Rina Ranahan 22 - Janet Bower 23 - Fred Matthews 26 - Beverly Bristow 26 - Sarah Henry</p>	<p>27 - Tom & Barbara Jessee</p> <p>We remember these Saints of Bethany who were born in February</p> <p>4 - George DeWeese 9 - Bill Quickert 12 - Greg Bullis 24 - Rose Golobic</p>

From the Office

Hello everyone! I have been welcomed so warmly by several of you already, and appreciate the support you have shown as I familiarize myself with all things Bethany. I am thankful to Roberta for leaving detailed notes, and to Roxane and Bonnie for their guidance in getting me settled into the office. A special thanks to Lyn for helping sort the office itself.

I look forward to getting to know the Bethany family!

Cathleen

Join us for a
Baby Shower Luncheon Tea!

Bamboo Lin and Ryan Hood

Saturday, February 18th • 1:30-4:00 pm

Bethany Presbyterian Church
 Please RSVP to Tamra Hollenbeck
tamrale55@hotmail.com
 or call 650-430-5749
 Baby Registry at Amazon



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

2400 Rosewood Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066
(650) 589-3711

bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org • bethanypcusa.org

Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians
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