



January @ Bethany - Happy 2023! 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.



Happy New Year everyone!

I'm not a fan of bugs, but I love this image and the concept of tiny ants being able to work beyond their pay grade. I had to google it: "Ants are super-strong on a small scale because **their bodies are so light**. Inside their hard exoskeletons, their muscles don't have to provide much support, so they are free

to apply all their strength to lifting other objects. Humans, in contrast, carry comparatively heavy loads due to our body weight."

<https://engineering.osu.edu/news/2014/02/study-ants>

I'm sure that many of us have learned never to underestimate small things. I had a friend in 2nd grade named Donny Donato. He was the shortest kid in class, and people used to try to make fun of him, but he took it all in stride. He was quite loveable. Kids would race him out on the playground. He always won, much to the surprise of the other kids. I mean always. Not just against the slower kids. People went out of their way to ask him to race. Sometimes, he would wait to start until after a few seconds to give the other person a head start. Sometimes, he'd jog in place, or run in small circles somewhere in the middle of the race, because he knew he was going to win! The kids that tried to make fun of him, really got a kick out of it. Never underestimate the little guy.

What will come our way in 2023? I'm not sure, but I know that we can expect great things. (By the way, if you google images of "Great expectations" all you get is pages and pages of covers of books!) I hope that in 2023 we will take on the perspective that people who come to Bethany have something great that we want. It's not just us who are great and warmly invite anyone to come be a part of us. That stranger out there? Come on in – we are joyfully waiting to learn



about you. We are small, but Bethany has always punched above its weight. That's part of our charm. We take care of each other, we see each other, and we share a love of faith in Christ. Along with inviting people from the outside in, we need to go outside and see what's waiting for us.



Bless you all as we venture together some more!

As always, let's talk.
Blessings,
Pastor Deb

👉 **BETHANY IS HIRING!** 👈

As you may know, we are looking for a church secretary to work about 15 hours each week in the office to support the pastor and other committees and help with the administrative work involved in running this fabulous church! If you know of anyone, or are interested, please contact Pastor Deb for more information. Thank you!

FINANCIAL TRUSTEES

November

\$ 9,573.75	Income
\$(9,781.50)	Expense
\$(207.75)	Difference

YTD

\$ 150,770.28	Income	91.637%
\$(165,018.75)	Expense	(98.750)%
\$(14,248.47)	Difference	(7.113)%

*Note: December pledges as of December 25 included receiving two annual pledges and one quarterly pledge final payment bringing 2022 income more in line with our YTD budget. We expect to end 2022 with a positive budget balance. Our checking account should also have a positive balance going into 2023.

We are truly grateful for your support throughout 2022 and for our 2023 pledged income.

Updates on the following issues:

1. Renewal of Pastor Deb McGuire's 2023 Annual Contract/Mission Study:

Our Mission Study information sent to the Presbytery of San Francisco was approved. Next steps have been provided by the Presbytery in order to complete the Pastor

Information Form, including an updated job description, and the Mission Information Form (formerly called the Church Information Form) in order to finalize our Called Pastor requirements. We plan to have all information requested from PofSF ready by their January 2023 meeting which is a month later than we expected due to the amount of information needed by the Presbytery.

The 2023 Transitional Pastor contract has been prepared for Pastor Deb McGuire, which, once signed by all parties, will be in place by early January. The contract includes a salary increase, which was approved by Session on December 20.

2. Renewal of the Sikh Association Multi-Year Lease (2023 – 2027):

Michael Glass, legal counsel for the Presbytery of San Francisco, is still working on the updates to our lease with the Sikh Association as of December 26. Mr. Glass did not meet his plan to have a draft ready for review the week of November 28, so he was contacted throughout December for updates on the timing of receiving the updated lease. The Presbytery of San Francisco was also notified of the delay in receiving the updated lease. Once received, we will still need to review the lease with the Sikh Association. Then when both parties have agreed to the updated terms and conditions, both parties will sign the lease.

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. The Trustees will start requesting bids for this project in January 2023 from appropriate landscape renewal contractors.

4. Bids Received and Action Taken:

Replacement or Repair of the Patio Outside the Church Building:

This project has been on hold but will be re-addressed in January 2023. Bids will be reviewed and/or updated so the work can be started on the patio.

Replacement of Kitchen Stove/Removal of Non-working Stoves:

A stove was selected and purchased for our kitchen. Anticipated delivery and installation is scheduled for December 29. The two older stoves currently in the middle of the kitchen will be removed and taken away the same day the new stove is delivered. We look forward to receiving our new stove. Many thanks to all who assisted with getting the new stove in place.

5. Annual Stewardship Campaign for 2023:

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign was very successful. We received more than \$11,000 more in pledges than in 2022. This wonderful effort by our entire congregation shows

how we are listening to God's calling, working together to ensure success, and looking forward to how we can best serve the San Bruno community.

Many thanks to all who contributed in 2022 in so many ways and for your trust in our moving forward in 2023. Should you have any questions, please contact Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

6. Annual Church Budget for 2023:

The Session approved the 2023 budget at their December 20 meeting. The budget includes a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for our Pastor, Director of Music, and Webmaster, as well as an increased salary for the Church Secretary, once hired. 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. 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. **Our Church Secretary position** has been posted with the Presbytery of San Francisco as well as other employment sites. For questions, please contact Pastor Deb McGuire.

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 Buildings and Grounds (Dave Wales)



December 20, 2022 Session Meeting at Bethany: Session report will be in the next newsletter.



Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group gathered joyfully on December 12 and the next monthly meeting is on **Monday, JANUARY 9 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 will finish up the book study of *A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community* by Adam Russell Taylor. In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend!



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. 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 weather has cooled down significantly. Blankets, throws, quilts, coats, jackets, and sweatshirts are 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.

Advent Festival

The Advent Festival was held on Saturday, December 3. We trimmed the tree, put up garland, candles, and other décor, as well as baked some delicious Christmas cookies. The Deacons added gift tags to the tree for gift ideas from Peter Stiehler for the Shelter (more about this effort in the Deacons information for the January newsletter). We had a great turnout and it was a wonderful morning to get together and decorate!

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 as we are awaiting a callback from the Rise Against Hunger office.

Pizza and Puzzles Night – January 21 @ 5pm

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, January 21, for Pizza and Puzzles Night at the church**. We will meet at 5pm for dinner and then start building puzzles. Even if puzzle building is not your favorite thing, please join us for dinner and fellowship for this fun evening. We look forward to seeing you!





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



Quick calendar overview – subject to change/updates to follow

Wed. 12/28 - No Prayer Time on Zoom – Pastor Deb on vacation to 1/3/23

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sun. 1/1 - Worship Service – Lessons and Carols 10:00am, followed by coffee hour
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Monthly:

- Sundays: Worship at 10am; coffee hour 11am (rehearsals start 8:30am)
- Wednesdays: Rehearsals – Prayz 6pm, Chancel Choir 7:30pm; Prayer Time 6:30pm
- 1st Sunday: Communion at Worship Service
- 2nd Sunday: Worship Committee 11am
- 2nd Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30pm
- 3rd Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30am
- 3rd Monday: Financial Trustees 4:30pm
- 3rd Tuesday: Session 7pm

Buildings & Grounds, Community Action committees – as scheduled

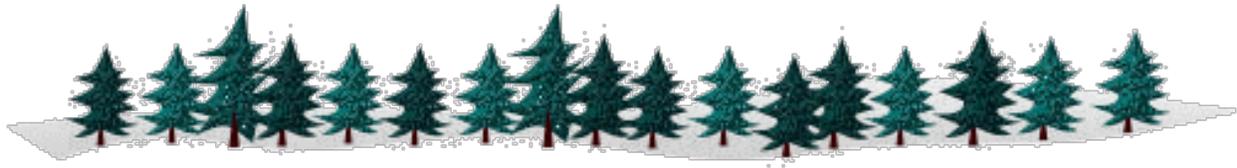
Committee chairs/group leaders: please inform me of any changes to these dates.

**** Please mark your calendars: There will be a Congregational Meeting held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 15, 2023, to formally authorize a Pastor Nominating Committee. Stay tuned for more information. ****



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>



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](#)

Happy Birthday to all those born in January!

- 6 Jenny Schurk
- 6 Patrick May
- 6 Doreen Bird
- 8 Melinda Albaugh-Jones
- 14 Todd Constable
- 19 Allyson Sweetman
- 21 Mitch Fontaine
- 21 Edward Kross
- 22 Kenneth & Kaileigh Parker
- 28 Nels Delander
- 29 Emilie May-Uldrick
- 30 Kent Sicklebower



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

- 6 Betty Hart
- 10 Stuart Smith
- 10 Paul Lutz
- 11 John Harlan
- 18 Vern Parker
- 19 Dorothy Brown
- 28 Bill Burge
- 30 Kent Sicklebower
- 31 Angie Angeles
- 31 Dick Gartner

Newsletter Due Dates

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings.

Submissions for the February newsletter: Tuesday, January 24

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