



July @ Bethany



Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor

Hello friends,

I have a friend who has birthday parties for her kids on their half-birthday, because their actual birthdays occur during particularly busy times of the year. In other words, in addition to recognizing the birthday on the day, they also have a celebration at say 10 ½ or 12 ½ yrs old. It's a fun way to have a celebration at a time of year when there isn't a lot of distraction in their family's life. I think of how much fun it must be to be them, thinking outside of the box, being creative about having fun, mixing things up.

How about if we do that? Here we are, jumping off into the second half of 2023 already! What would you celebrate from the past six months? What are you looking forward to for the next six months? I love the poetry of Mary Oliver because she is always inviting us to look, notice, examine and examen. In her poem entitled "Invitation" she invites us to linger a while. As you reflect on your blessings from God, as well as what you desire from God, know that God desires for you, all good things. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

How will you linger today?

"Invitation" by Mary Oliver

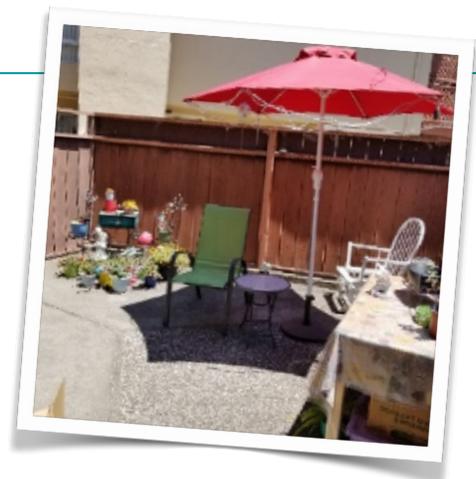
*Oh do you have time, to linger, for just a little while, out of your busy and very important day;
for the goldfinches that have gathered in a field of thistles for a musical battle, to see who can sing the highest note,
or the lowest, or the most expressive of mirth, or the most tender?*



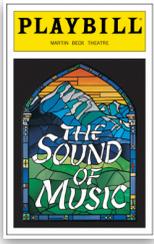
*Their strong, blunt beaks drink the air as they strive melodiously not for your sake
and not for mine and not for the sake of winning but for sheer delight and gratitude –
believe us, they say, it is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in the
broken world.*

(a portion of Mary Oliver, "Invitation," *A Thousand Mornings* (New York: Penguin Books, 2013).

Don't forget, Patio Season has begun, so let's talk!
-- Pastor Deb



Broadway Sing-a-Long



Further discussion occurred about the suggestion to have a Broadway Song "Sing-a-Long." It was thought that this idea might be able to be done through a video rather than live music. More information to come about this suggestion!

Movie Night

15 people joined together June 3 at 6pm for a summer Movie Night as we watched the Tom Hanks movie "Big." We had a simple dinner of tomato bisque soup with lots of sides, drinks and dessert. Thanks to all who joined in the fun and we will plan another Movie Night soon!



Summer Barbecue

Looks like the BBQ will occur in August; plans are in the works. We are also planning on inviting our Rosewood Drive neighbors to come to the BBQ.



From the Church Office

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of the holiday. Cathleen and Deb will be available via email throughout the week, and will be in the office on Friday, July 7.



New Address

Randy Johansen
Scott Villa
1560 Middle Lane
Hayward, CA 94545
1-510-782-7833
1-510-782-8808



The Bethany Deacons hosted a "Let's Get Ready For Summer" Luncheon on Sunday, June 11. The day was filled with so much richness and joy as we welcomed old friends, enjoyed first time worshipper Bryson Lin Hood and his parents, delighted in the prospect of a pending adult baptism, and felt the swell of the Holy Spirit as we shared sandwiches, fruits, and sweets and also the stories of our lives. Thanks to everyone who participated in that joy-filled time. Another luncheon will be planned for the fall, and the Deacons will keep you posted as that time approaches. Have a wonderful summer, everyone!



Ruth Covenant Group



The Ruth Covenant Group is taking a short break for summer travel plans by several of our participants, so there will be no meeting in July. We will meet again on Monday, August 14 at 6:30 pm at the church. Keep posted for any updates! 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!

Summer Music Plans - July 2 - 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. 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

- 7 - Craig Bray
- 12 - Lyn Hughes
- 21 - Kathleen Mitchell
- 23 - Barbara Jessee
- 23 - Bamboo Lin
- 26 - Bob Johansen
- 31 - Roxane Wales

Anniversaries

- 8 - Susan and Pat May
- 20 - George Lynch and Lyn Hughes



Session Highlights - 6/27/23

Pastor's Report - Deb reported.

- There has been some *recent vandalism in the sanctuary and church parking lot*. Dave Wales has been in contact with Sikh congregation, and they will keep their eyes open. A police report was filed regarding 'extracurricular' activities on the church grounds, including reckless driving in the parking lot. Our neighbors have contacted the church with concerns about those activities. The police recommend video surveillance and chains across the entrance and exit of the parking lot. Dave will recruit help in getting the chains installed, and Lyn Hughes and George Lynch will work on getting cameras for the interior and exterior of the church. Lyn will also get a reflective sign to go onto the chains. Deb will contact our neighbors to update them about the plan.
- *Our neighbors have also raised some questions about our flags, wondering why the American flag is flying lower than the other flags*. After much discussion, Deb stated that she will contact the Sikh congregation to request that they raise the American flag so it is above the Sikh flag. She will then talk with our neighbors to explain that the church does not fly the American flag because of separation of church and state. Session members agreed that there could be a rotation of flags flown to reflect our inclusiveness and values: Presbyterian flag, Eco-flag, Pride flag, Peacemaking flag, BLM flag.

Financial Trustees - Lyn Hughes reported.

- *The church grounds clean-up has begun*. Once it is completed, there will be a regular clean-up to keep the church landscape trimmed.
- There is *money available for a kitchen 'facelift'*. Ideas on what that will look like are being sought.
- George Lynch presented a *proposal for a sound system upgrade*. It will include a new system for sharing weekly worship services with a higher sound quality.

Buildings & Grounds - Dave Wales reported.

- Dave presented a *proposal from the Sikh congregation for an auxiliary building for their cooking needs*.
- *The metal shed in the parking lot blew down this past winter*, and it was hauled away this week.
- *The fascia at the church entrance requires a bit more work* than originally thought. Session approved additional funds for those repairs.

Community Action/Life and Outreach - Lyn reported.

- A *summer barbecue* is being planned for this summer, *probably in August*. Neighbors will be invited.
- Lyn is looking into *volunteer opportunities for the congregation to participate in* such as Second Harvest food distributions at Belle Air school, school supplies collection, and a Health Kit packing event at Bethany for the Catholic Worker Shelter.

Worship - Deb reported.

- *Elaine Tennant will be baptized on Sunday, July 9*. Lyn will be the elder to present her to the congregation, and Lyn and George have agreed to sing for the service.

Next meeting date: July 18, 2023 at 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 August newsletter:
Tuesday, July 25

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**, on various items since we transitioned to our new 5-year lease. Dave Wales continues to keep in contact with the Sikhs regarding plans for Room 1, which are not yet available, and plans were received for an outdoor cooking area on the south end of the patio. A reminder was sent about receiving a monthly activity calendar along with their rent check. Another item discussed was blocked doorways downstairs which could result in a safety hazard.
- **Grounds Clean-Up and Other Building Issues** – After our meeting on May 25 regarding the grounds clean-up, a vendor was hired and started the effort on June 27. Due to the size of the job, the job will continue over the next 3 – 4 weeks. A deposit was provided to the vendor to get the job started, and we are also going to ask the vendor for a price quote to remove some precariously hanging tree limbs on the east side of the lower parking lot. We also discussed a possible contract for ongoing grounds maintenance once the clean-up effort is completed. The old shed debris has been removed from the property. Ongoing possible project: transition to solar for our energy needs.
 - **Due to issues in the our parking lot**, the Session discussed 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” committee will be formed and more information provided as we review what needs to be done and create a proposal.
- **Update to Pastor Deb McGuire’s contract**: efforts are underway to update Pastor Deb’s contract due to the effort to make her our pastor ongoing, 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 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.
- **Organ repair** – due to an unexpected event, some issues occurred to the organ, and we are contacting someone to perform the needed repairs.
- We are also **reviewing some credit card opportunities** for the church.
- **Patio repair – on hold** until early summer.
- **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 repair, the estimate has increased to \$2,500 - \$3,000. Session approved the expense so the repair can move forward.
- **On-line giving opportunities** – in discussion.

For information about any Financial Trustees or Community Action/Life items, please contact Lyn Hughes at (650) 867-0667.

| May | | Year-to-Date | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| \$12,320 | Income | \$68,363.43 | Income | 79.949% |
| -\$17,264.62 | Expense | -\$86,108.78 | Expense | -88.027% |
| -\$4,944.62 | Difference | \$17,745.35 | Difference | 8.078% |

We are grateful for 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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Bethany is a member of More Light Presbyterians
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