

# November @ Bethany

## Bethany Presbyterian Church

### From the Pastor

Welcome to November friends,

This month at Bethany we will be focusing on Stewardship. All of you will get letters in the mail, asking for you to prayerfully consider your financial pledge for 2024 in support of our church. We have so many who faithfully give. We give thanks for you, and are so grateful for your trust and hope in God.

Typically, churches will ask for financial support primarily from members. At Bethany, as you may know, our financial support comes generously from the greater Bethany family that includes members as well as long-time friends, and even from families who have moved out of the area. Just so you know, as pastor I am free from the burden of knowing any giving details and that is the way I want it to be.

Stewardship though is about much more than money, although the focus is on pledging so that we can budget. Stewardship also has to do with all of the ways we care for, are good stewards of, our building, our land, our worship and fellowship, our voice in the larger world, our community. What we need in order to be good stewards is money, yes. We also need people with compassion, organizational skills, empathy and kindness, people with particular skills, thinkers, lovers, busy bees, prayers, introverts and extroverts. Again, the greater Bethany family provides us with all of those things.

It used to be that once someone was a member of a church, they would be put on the list of people who the church looks to for money, and for work. That is no longer the case, as evidenced by the greater Bethany family. So why do people still join the church? What's in it for them? Some of those things are in the graphic below. During the month of November we will have a Moment for Membership on three Sundays when members will answer that very question.

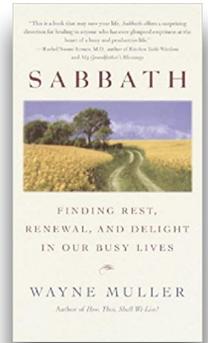
One need that any church has, that can only be provided by members, is leaders. Our rules say that we are not allowed to invite a non-member to be an elder or a deacon. That is unfortunate because so many non-members are clearly called to these roles. As you hear these three members speak about their journeys on the first three Sundays in November, I hope you will listen for God's call to you as well. Feel free to speak to me if you would like to become a member of Bethany.

With Thanksgiving for all of you,  
Pastor Deb



## Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group, AKA Ruthies, will meet at the church on Monday, November 13 at 6:30 pm. We have one more chapter to read in *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight* by Wayne Muller. We ask that, as you read, maybe highlight portions that really speak to you and be ready to share your thoughts. Don't have the book or haven't read it yet? No worries. The wisdom in this book can be shared whether you've read it or not! Please do know that you are always welcome to join in. The idea is to FINISH the book and also come with thoughts about Thanksgiving. Maybe we could do a craft? Looking ahead, perhaps we could return to an old idea of having one person bring an article to share and discuss, or a reading idea suitable for our busy lives. New attendees are much encouraged! In addition to our discussion, there will be an opportunity for check-in, fellowship, and prayer. All are welcome to attend! If you prefer to attend by Zoom, please let Tamra Hollenbeck know, and we will get a link sent to you.



## Deacons' News



The Deacons would like to express our gratitude to the congregation for the generous response to our donation request in October. We are heading into the holiday season with our coffers full, ready to respond to the needs of our congregation and community members. Thanks so much!!

### Christmas Card Writing Opportunity

The Deacons will host a Christmas Card Writing event after worship on Sunday, December 3. Christmas cards, addresses, and postage will be provided, and the congregation is invited to help write cards to Bethany friends and family who are not able to worship with us regularly. Please plan to join us for this festive event.



## Community Action

Community Action and the Deacons are teaming with "HelpOneChild" from San Mateo County to provide 15 Christmas presents to foster or recently adopted children. We are awaiting the package with further information and the gift suggestions for the children. We will provide information on how to provide the present(s) for those children once the information package is received. This action has an early deadline as the presents have to be delivered to the organization by the first week of December.



We will also be collecting Christmas gifts for the San Bruno Shelter (CWHH). As of the end of October, we have yet to receive information on what is needed, but please listen for announcements in church and/or information on Wednesdays@Bethany for more information about these Christmas giving events.



For the gift requests, we plan on using the "tree on the wall" at the back of the church near the door (HelpOneChild,) and the Christmas tree which will be set up at the front of the church (San Bruno Shelter) to post the requests allowing people to select a gift request which works for their budget.

- We continue to support the **Catholic Worker Hospitality House** for items needed at the Shelter. A complete list of items can be found on their website. Please watch for information in future Newsletters or in announcements at church.
- **Second Harvest Food Drive** Schedule @ Belle Air Elementary School in San Bruno - be at the school at 1:45pm to volunteer; The drive runs from 2:00pm to 4:15pm the last Wednesday of each month as follows:

November 22, 2023 | December 27, 2023 | January 24, 2024



SECOND HARVEST  
of SILICON VALLEY

## Postcard Writing

Many of us have felt discouraged by the current political situation and wished there was something we could do besides wringing our hands and donating money. Several years ago some of my friends and I discovered several organizations that mount postcard campaigns to support specific campaigns or issues that are coming before voters. We started meeting every few weeks for a few hours to write postcards to lists of voters. We provide the stamps, sometimes the postcards, and hand write a several line message and sign our first names.

Sometimes we receive address labels and sometimes we need to write the addresses. The idea is that a person receiving a handwritten postcard specifically to them may be influenced to get out and vote. Studies of these campaigns show the vote may be influenced by 1-2% which can make the difference in many of the close elections we have witnessed. In past campaigns we hope we contributed to the election of Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, Democratic senators from Georgia. Most recently, we pulled out all the stops to send off 2,000 postcards to voters in Virginia where all the seats in the state legislature are up for election this coming November 7. Preserving the current Democratic majority in Virginia is the only way to protect reproductive rights from a Republican governor, pledged to remove them. Anyone is welcome to join our group. Please contact me at [stevencady@comcast.net](mailto:stevencady@comcast.net). Here are links to two of the postcard groups if you want more information: Blue Wave Postcard campaign: [bluewavepostcards.org](http://bluewavepostcards.org) and Activate America [activateamerica.vote](http://activateamerica.vote).

- Chris Angeles

This is what 2,000 postcards looks like. It took two people three hours to just put the address labels on!



After writing a short scripted message, putting on stamps, we take them to the post office in boxes!



## Upcoming Events at Bethany



### Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Review | Friday, November 17, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The church will provide turkey, gravy, rolls, and drinks. Attendees will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. A sign-up sheet will be available on the first Sunday in November.

Please consider what you might like to present for the Talent Review. It can be singing, playing an instrument, a magic trick, reading a poem, etc. What talent do you have that you would like to share? Everyone is welcome.



## November BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

11 - Ken Henry  
22 - Andy Jones

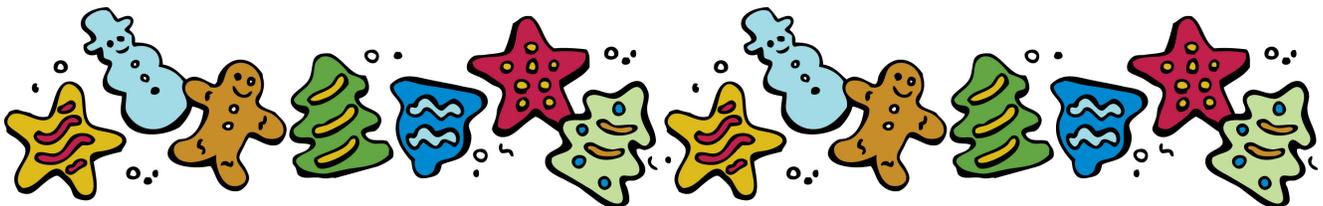
### Anniversaries

24 - Robin and Nancy Crawford



**Advent Festival | Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am**

Help decorate the Christmas Tree and the Church, bake cookies, and more! We will put up and decorate the Christmas tree, hang garland and/or swags, etc.



**Monthly events at Bethany**

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

**Wednesdays:** Prayz 5:00 pm  
Chancel Choir 6:30 pm  
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

**Submissions for W@B:** Tuesday mornings.

**Submissions for the December newsletter:**  
**Wednesday, November 22**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Communion at Worship Service  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Worship Committee 11:00 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: Ruth Covenant Group 6:30 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Deacons Meeting 11:30 am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: Financial Trustees 4:30 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday: Session 4:30 pm  
Buildings & Grounds,  
Community Action committees  
– as scheduled

## Session Highlights - October 17, 2023

### Pastor: Deb reported.

- There is a proposal to change out the current copier for one that prints in color. We will keep a smaller printer to use for smaller projects.
- Cathleen Torres has been at Bethany for almost one year.
- November will be Stewardship focus. Several people will speak on Sunday mornings about what being a member at Bethany has meant for them.
- Deb received gift check from her friend in celebration of Deb's installation. She would love to use the gift to purchase a bench for the little library at the front of the church property.
- Church directory is close to completion. Session thought everyone should receive it if they want one.

### Financial Trustees: Lyn reported.

- Finances are healthy. Quite a few annual pledges come in at the end of the year.
- The grounds keepers continue to work on the church property. Session requests a list of what the gardeners are expected to do so their tasks aren't being duplicated by church members.
- Deb's new contract as installed pastor has been updated and signed.
- A Kitchen Committee is going to get a meeting scheduled to begin planning for a kitchen upgrade.
- Plans are continuing to establish on-line giving. The hope is that the information will be available for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign.
- Security cameras have been purchased and need to be installed.
- Peace and Global Witness offerings will be dedicated on Sunday, October 29. Ideas of how we might spend our 25% are being requested.

### Buildings and Grounds:

- A discussion about painting the sanctuary was held. The project needs someone to take the lead.
- The plumbing went out at church and repairs were performed by a plumber. George spent much of the meeting dealing with the problem. George recommends that a suggested list of workers be created to address needs that arise at the church.

### Community Action/Life and Outreach: Lyn

reported.

- Game Night with optional costumes will be on Saturday, October 28 at 6:00 pm. Soup and sandwiches will be served.
- Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Show - Friday, November 17 at 6:00 pm. Church will provide turkey, gravy, rolls, and drinks, and congregation will be invited to bring sides, salads, and pies or other desserts. Set up will be on Thursday, November 16. There will be a talent show. Sign-up sheets will be available in early November.
- Advent Festival will be on Saturday, December 2 from 10-1. There will be cookie baking and tree decorating.

### Worship: Pam reported.

- Finding the best way to get liturgists was discussed.
- Deb will encourage the congregation to keep prayer requests down to a few words.
- Any announcements need to be in by Thursday to be included on Sunday morning.

**Other Business:** The next meeting date will be on Tuesday, November 21 at 4:30 pm.

## Financial Trustees

### September

\$25,528.47	Income
-\$15,725.23	Expense
\$9,803.24	Difference

### Year-to-Date

\$150,269.80	Income	97.632%
-\$163,429.76	Expense	-92.817%
-\$13,159.96	Difference	-4.315%

Going forward, we will report financial information quarterly as agreed at the October Session meeting. Continued thanks for your faithful contributions to Bethany Church!

## Financial Trustees (cont.)

### Other Financial Items:

- We continue to keep in touch with our tenant, the Sikh Association. No issues at this time.
- Building and Grounds Issues – Sump pump issues occurred during the week of October 16 which resulted in plumbing problems both upstairs and downstairs. A plumber was called, and the failure was due to the age of the pipes, valves, etc. The needed work was done over two days, at a cost of \$10,600. The good news is that we had the funds to pay for the work to be done. Thanks to George Lynch for his work on this issue, including time spent at the church over the two days it took to complete the job.
- Additional vegetation removal is needed on the west side of the property which will be done as a Phase 2 project along with some additional tree trimming. Lyn and George are scheduled to meet with Jaime Munoz to advise what needs to be done and to receive an estimate for the Phase 2 work.
- Dave Wales continues to explore possible energy solutions for the church, including replacing our antiquated electrical panel, installing a heat pump, and exploring solar energy, which will reduce our electricity consumption, but comes with significant expense.

**In progress:** Cameras have been purchased to help secure both parking lots as well as our building inside and out. The cameras will be installed soon. Ongoing, we are considering chains across the entrance and exit will be used as well as signs posted to assist in securing our property.

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. The "Kitchen Update Committee" was formed (Lyn Hughes, Tamra Hollenbeck, Roxane Wales, Elaine Tennant, and Chris Angeles). More information forthcoming once the committee reviews the kitchen and creates a proposal.

**Sound system and electronics update:** George Lynch has priced what will be needed regarding replacements, updates, and/or some possible repairs to maintain our sound and electronic equipment. Next step is to purchase the equipment.

- **Patio repair** – on hold until 2024; a suggestion was made to include a labyrinth in the new patio.
- **Roof/siding repair** – Further work is needed at the very top of the church's roofline in the future; this will be discussed for 2024.
- We are also **considering painting the Sanctuary** as it needs an update. This job is anticipated to occur in 2024.
- Pastor Deb's employment contract has been updated due to her becoming our permanent Pastor. **Pastor Deb's pastoral contract was signed and has been sent to the Presbytery of San Francisco.**
- We are awaiting further information regarding on-line giving from our Wells Fargo Bank representative as **we want to move forward with the ability to accept donations on-line through Zelle/a QR code on both our Facebook and Bethany websites.** Calls and emails have been sent, but no further information has been received, although the representative says he will get back to us.
- Global Witness and Peacemaking information was sent out and was dedicated at the end of October, with 25% of the Peacemaking offering remaining in our church.
- **The annual Stewardship drive will kick off on November 5.** Letters, including a pledge card, will be sent out in early November, and it is anticipated we will dedicate the pledges and create a 2024 church budget by the first week of December.
- **Advent Festival** to include Decorating the Christmas Tree and the Church, Cookie Baking, etc. – **Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.** We will put up and decorate the Christmas tree, hang garland and/or swags, etc.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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### Bethany Presbyterian Church

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

[bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org](mailto:bethanypres@bethanypcusa.org) • [bethanypcusa.org](http://bethanypcusa.org)

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