
October @ Bethany

Bethany Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor



Happy October everyone,

Which fall food, activity, temperature, holiday, picture of nature, sport, do you think of at this time of year?

For a while, the Giants were on our minds even in October. Today as we enter the final week of baseball in the Bay Area (maybe not, maybe not, maybe not!), we'll just have to see. Personally, I've traded in thoughts of hotdogs, for thoughts of learning how to make soup this year. As the dark comes upon us earlier and earlier, my thoughts also go to warm blankets and light jackets. The nature picture that comes to mind is the colors of the rolling hills of the wine country as each grape species unveils a different color leaf. A little spiced cider or hot chocolate sounds good too.

The church enters some new seasons at this time of year too. The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday, a time for us to remember that when we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we celebrate with Christians around the world, and remember that Christ's love reaches far and wide. We will celebrate our connections to one another as we participate in the Peace and Global Witness

offering during October. In November we will begin our Stewardship campaign, asking ourselves to consider how each family and household may be able to partner with us in the work and witness of our congregation for each other and our community. With Movie Night, Game Night, our Thanksgiving dinner and talent show, what the church calls "Ordinary" time seems like anything but ordinary. And we haven't even begun to talk about Advent yet!

There is a good energy at Bethany these days. We hope you will keep church involvement on your calendar because we don't want you to miss out.

Recently, several people have shown interest in reading the book I mentioned in my sermon last week, and have asked for the title. If there are more than three or four who would like to read it, I would like to start a group. It is a hard read, and cannot be rushed, so it will take at least 6-8 weeks of commitment if we want to go ahead. I am

willing if you are. The book is *What Kind of Christianity? Anti-Black Racism and the Presbyterian Church*.

At our Session meeting last week, I expressed my thanks to everyone for the beautiful installation* service. Someone mentioned that they felt different too. The feeling was that we went from Velcro to Gorilla Glue!



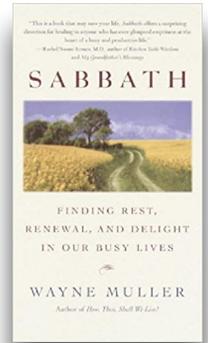
Thank you all for everything that you do!

Blessings,
Pastor Deb



Ruth Covenant Group

The Ruth Covenant Group will be meeting at the church on Monday, October 9 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 "Consecration," pages 195-213. 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. 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.



History of the Ruth Covenant Group, AKA Ruthies

The Ruth Covenant Group was started about 40 years ago at Bethany Presbyterian Church. At the time, there were two Presbyterian Women Circles at Bethany: The Hannah Circle, which met monthly during the day, and the Martha Circle, which met monthly in the evening. Both of those circles were attended primarily by women who were retired and/or had entered the time of life when their children were grown and moved away. The Ruth Group was formed by and for the younger women of the church who were working both in and out of the home. It was a wonderful support group for the women who weren't able to attend a daytime circle and for those of us who were starting careers in our various fields and/or raising children. The meetings consisted of a Bible study, often prepared by the Presbyterian Women USA, a check-in when our lives were shared with each other, prayer time, and delicious snacks!



As the years have gone by, both the Hannah and Martha Circles are no longer meeting, and the Ruth Group is comprised of women of all ages and walks of life. We continue to have a Bible or book study, check-in time, prayers, and snacks - still delicious! Participants are intergenerational, interfaith, and supportive women, all seeking to grow in our faith. The Ruth Group welcomes women of all ages, and we celebrate the richness that comes with new faces and ideas!

Deacon's Offering

The Deacons will be having a Deacon's Offering during the month of October. As we look ahead to the holiday season, the Deacons funds will support the needs of our members and our community. In the recent past, funds donated by our congregation have been used to: 1) purchase Children's Bibles for our younger congregants; 2) buy some of the toiletries used for the health kits for the Catholic Worker Hospitality House; 3) support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program in their work with the Half Moon Bay Pajaro farmworkers; 4) provide gift cards for people in need; and 5) arrange for the flowers for Pastor Deb's Installation (thank you, Kathy Q!). Please find the Deacon's Offering envelopes in the sanctuary chairs and make a donation during October, if you are able.



Upcoming Events at Bethany



Game Night

Saturday, October 28, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

We will have dinner and play board games for this event. A sign-up sheet will be available the first Sunday in October.

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.



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

Help decorate the Christmas Tree and the Church, bake cookies, and more! Stay tuned for more information.



October
BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

3 - Kathryn Quickert
5 - Chris Angeles
14 - Kathy Fogle
15 - Frank Goodwin
22 - Catie and Sally Lyons

Anniversaries

9 - Fred and Pam Matthews
12 - Dave and Roxane Wales

Community Action

- Community Action and the Deacons will be teaming with **“HelpOneChild” from San Mateo County** to provide 15 Christmas presents to foster or adopted children. We are awaiting the package with further information and the requests from 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. Look and listen for more information coming on this opportunity to help.
- 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. We will also be providing Christmas gifts to CWHH for their participants. 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:
October 25, 2023 | November 22, 2023 | December 27, 2023 | January 24, 2024



Peace and Global Witness Offering | World Communion Sunday

Each year, the Bethany community is invited to participate in the peacemaking work of the church as we celebrate World Communion and Peacemaking on the first Sunday of October. We will taste breads from many different cultures from around the world as we delight in the Christian community and fellowship we love and proclaim.

As part of the Peacemaking program, congregations are invited to contribute to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, a gift that enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. The Peacemaking Offering has several different designated recipients: 50% goes to the PCUSA for projects nation and worldwide; 25% goes to the SF Presbytery for local projects; and 25% is retained by Bethany to use in a way that promotes peace in our own community. Last year, Bethany sponsored a “Season of Peace” essay and artistic expression opportunity for the 4th and 5th grade students at Allen School in San Bruno. Participating students were invited to draw, write, create a song, or express in some way what a season of peace looks like to them. The works of four students were selected for their creative ideas, and those students, much to their delight, were awarded with Target gift cards.

The kickoff for the Peace and Global Witness Offering will be on Sunday, October 1, and the offering will be dedicated on Sunday, October 29. Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to this work for peace.

Blessings to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Shalom.



September 17, 2023

Dear Amazing Bethany Friends of Deb,

When years go by and we're thinking back on the flow of Deb's life, September 3, 2023 will stand out as a true beacon of hope and joy!

A million thanks to all the Bethany folks who put their hearts and minds and energy into making the Installation a perfect day at Bethany for everyone!

Yes, this means YOU!

Love, *Kathy (Deb's mom)*



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
Chancel Choir 7:30 pm
Prayer Group 6:30 pm

Submissions for W@B: Tuesday mornings.

Submissions for the November newsletter:
Tuesday, October 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

Session Highlights - September 19, 2023

Pastor Deb gives a great big Thank you to everyone who participated in her installation on September 3rd. It was a fabulous and blesses event!

Pastor Deb is planning to have an **Advent Bible Study in December**. More details to follow.

Financial Trustees:

- The Sikh's congregation has completed the outside cooking structure.
- The grounds clean-up continues with a gardener hired to come to Bethany twice a month to keep up the pruning and general yard work.
- Craig Bray and Fred Matthews have completed the repair and replacement of the fascia at the front of the church.
- Bethany is exploring having a way for people to donate on-line.
- Lyn Hughes is working with Wells Fargo Bank to get this implemented.
- Safety cameras for inside and outside the church have been purchased and will be installed soon.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Upgrades to the church's energy production are being pursued. First step will be to have our electrical panel upgraded with the understanding it will need to be able to support solar panels and a new electric heating system. There are many steps to this process, and Session agreed to start moving forward with these steps.
- There is a wasp nest in front of the church. Steve Cady provided information about San Mateo Vector Control, who will come and remove the underground nest. Until then, everyone is warned to be aware around the area where the water hoses are located in the front of the church.

Community Action/Life and Outreach: Several events are being planned:

- Movie Night on Saturday, September 30th at 5:30 pm. Salad and sandwich makings plus drinks and dessert will be served, and the featured movie is "Goonies."
- Game night and optional costume party: Saturday, October 28 - 6:00 pm.
- Thanksgiving Dinner - Friday, November 17.
- Advent Festival - Saturday, December 2 from 10:00- 1:00 pm.
- Bethany congregation will be invited to participate in "Help One Child" gift giving program, an opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to foster children and children who have recently been adopted.

Worship: World Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 1 with a special communion that will lift up the Unity in Christ experienced by Christians around the world. This will also be the kickoff for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Those offerings will be dedicated on Sunday, October 29.

Financial Trustees

August		Year-to-Date		
\$11,550.00	Income	\$124,741.33	Income	91.176%
-\$24,688.09	Expense	-\$147,704.63	Expense	-94.910%
-\$13,138.09	Difference	-\$22,963.20	Difference	-3.734%

An additional transfer from Savings was made in September as well as a quarterly pledge was received which will offset our Income/Expense difference once the September financial information is published. We thank you for your ongoing efforts and your generous giving.

Financial Trustees (cont.)

Financial Items

- We continue to keep in touch with our tenant, the Sikh Association. It appears their outboard structure is now completed. We are regularly receiving their calendar along with their rent check each month.
- Building and Grounds Issues – 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 will meet with Jaime Munoz to let him know what needs to be done and request an estimate for Phase 2. Dave Wales continues to explore possible energy solutions including replacing our antiquated electrical panel, installing a heat pump, and exploring solar energy for the church which will reduce our electricity consumption but comes with expense to implement these solutions.

Work 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. 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. A Kitchen Update Committee was formed (Lyn Hughes, Tamra Hollenbeck, Roxane Wales, Elaine Tennant, and Chris Angeles). More information will be forthcoming once we review what needs to be done and create a proposal for the updates.

Sound system and electronics updates

- George Lynch has been pricing what will be needed regarding replacements, updates, and/or some possible repairs to maintain our sound and electronic equipment.
- Both the organ and grand piano were serviced in September. There was no permanent damage to either instrument which was good news.
- We applied to Chase Bank for a new church credit card (VISA). The card was granted and once

the old credit card has been paid in full, we will cancel that card and only use the new credit card. Authorized users are Lyn Hughes, Deb McGuire, and Cathleen Torres. The new card has a generous credit limit along with a cash back feature.

- Patio repair – still on hold; a suggestion was made to include a labyrinth in the new patio.
- Roof/siding repair – The initial fascia repair has been made by Craig Bray and Fred Matthews. We rented scaffolding in order to complete the job. We are now awaiting the bill(s) for any outstanding expenses. Craig also advised that there may be further work needed at the very top of the church's roofline in the future.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to both Craig and Fred



for the many hours of work which were put in to take care of the needed repairs, and their continued review of other work that needs to be done to keep the church building in good condition.

Other Financial Items

- On-line giving opportunities – A Wells Fargo Bank representative was helpful in giving Lyn an overall summary of how to add on-line giving opportunities to both our Facebook page and our website through "Zelle" using a QR code. This information was discussed at the September Session meeting and was approved. Lyn will now get back to the WFB representative in order to move forward.
- Pastor Deb's employment contract has been updated due to her becoming our permanent Pastor. Any needed updates will be made, and then the contract will be signed by Pastor Deb, PoSF, and Lyn Hughes as the Chair of the Trustees.
- Global Witness and Peacemaking information will soon be sent to all of the congregation and inserts on this topic will be in the bulletin over the next few weeks. A kickoff letter is scheduled to go out on October 1. A reminder that 25% of the Peacemaking offering stays in our church.
- The annual Stewardship drive will kick off on November 5. More information on this item to come in the November Newsletter.

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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