



Bethany Presbyterian Church
2024 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Pastor's Letter	3
Church Officers	4
Clerk of Session.....	4

Church Boards

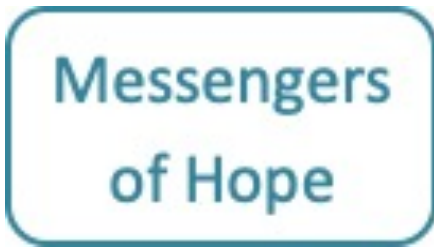
Board of Deacons	5
Deacons' Treasurer's Report.....	6

Session Committees

Buildings & Grounds	7
Community Action/Life	9
Financial Trustees	9
Personnel Committee	10
Worship Committee	11

Other Reports

Ruth Covenant Group	13
Special Events	14



Dear Bethany family,

I hope you enjoy the reports on the following pages. Bethany has a lot to celebrate this year. We started 2024 with a beautiful baptism of Georgia Leah McAllister, added three members throughout the year (Bob, Walt and Doreen), enjoyed a beautiful Spring Tea and our great Thanksgiving

Dinner and Talent Revue this year. Our adult education activities included a Lenten Study and an Advent Study and were well attended. We enjoyed a fun afternoon of Patio time at Elaine Tennant's Patio – she was a great hostess and has a beautiful home and patio. It was a beautiful sunny day. We celebrated the life of Bill Marsh in April, and our sweet Bev Bristow passed away in November with a service held in early January of 2025. We have enjoyed the sweet noises and hugs and wanderings of beautiful Bryson Lin Hood as he grows up before our very eyes. We await each time he is with us, to see who will be granted the joy of him sitting on a lap. He has distributed toys, crayons and participated in our puzzle night. Sadly we had to say bon voyage to Pam and Fred Matthews as they headed to their retirement life with their family in Missoula, Montana. Fear not, they were sent on their way with a true cowboy playlist for the road.

The start of a new year is always a great way to reflect on the year just past. We look behind us and are amazed at God's continual work in and around this great community. We look ahead to a time of many changes. My wish is that 2025 be a year in which God teaches us how to be messengers of encouragement and hope to anyone we meet who is in need.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb

Bethany Presbyterian Church Officers

Deacons

Kathleen Fogle - Moderator

Tamra Hollenbeck - Secretary

Roxane Wales - Treasurer

Financial Trustees

Lyn Hughes - Chair

Dave Wales

Roxane Wales

Clerk of Session

January – December 2023 Bethany's Session was comprised of 4 elders:

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Dave Wales		Lyn Hughes
Pam Matthews*		George Lynch

*January - May, 2024

These elders were responsible for organizing, leading and reporting the work done by the following committees:

Worship, Financial Trustees, Personnel, Nominating,
Buildings & Grounds, Community Action/Life.

In 2024, Session generally met monthly at 4:30 PM. Meetings begin in prayer, lighting of the Christ candle and a devotion led by Pastor Deb with group reflections. This is followed by reports from Pastor Deb (Pastoral Care, Worship plans, etc.), Clerk of Session and Committee chairs.

In August, 2024, Session began a discussion about combining the Board of Deacons with Session. Following the Book of Order and after approval of the plan

by membership at a Congregational meeting in November, we now have a Leadership meeting once a month to plan and decide Session and Deacon responsibilities.

We no longer have a Community Life Committee and will call upon Bethany family and friends to assist in organizing various events through sign-up sheets. These events include Spring Tea, Thanksgiving Dinner, Advent Festival, Movie & Game Nights, and others. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

New memberships were celebrated with Walt & Doreen Bird on March 3, 2024 and Bob Johansen on May 5, 2024. This year we were also saddened by the news of the passings of Bill Marsh, February 11 and Bev Bristow on November 30. Bill became a member on 12/15/56 and Bev on 2/5/61 Also, we wished the best to Pam & Fred Matthews as they moved to Missoula, Montana in late May.

As of December 31, 2024, BPC's total membership was 37.

Also, I much appreciate the continued assistance of Tamra Hollenbeck in sharing the clerk's minute-taking responsibilities with me.

Roxane Wales

Board of Deacons

The three members of the Deacons have been working faithfully for the life of the church and our congregation. As in the past, it has been really enjoyable being able to work together for another year.

The deacons have had a busy year keeping up with our people. We have been diligent in informing our parishes about upcoming activities including multiple days for card writing, special holiday services, Thanksgiving dinner and updates about the congregation to name a few. We also have been reaching out to members who do not regularly attend with visits, calls and cards.

After church luncheons were held in March, June and September. The deacons also assisted with the Spring Tea. At the parish coffee we were able to meet with our members and hand out our new, long-anticipated church directories. We also had opportunities to solicit comments, ideas and concerns for the life of the church in general. It was a wonderful time to just sit and chat for a while. We welcomed Bob Johansen as a new member of Bethany and provided a cake and flowers for his

celebration. And for Pam and Fred Matthews we arranged a special after church celebration as they prepared to move to Montana. Although we were sad to see them leave, it was a lovely occasion. And Tamra created a Blessing Tree for us to put our cards and prayers.

Thanks to the generosity of the Bethany congregation the Deacons have been able to provide gift cards for those needing a little assistance. We have also been able to donate financially to purchase school supplies and the Catholic Workers Hospitality House. We have also been able to provide monetary and some other gifts to our wonderful staff as a thank-you for serving Bethany so faithfully.

2024 was the last year for the Deacons as a board. 2025 will see a different composition of the leadership. However, there will be no difference in the love and service we all want to provide to Bethany.

The Board of Deacons: ***Kathleen Fogle***, Moderator, ***Tamra Hollenbeck***, Secretary, ***Roxane Wales***, Treasurer

2023 DEACONS' TREASURER REPORT

Income

1/1/24 - 12/31/24 Donations\$940.00

Expenditures

9/1/14 Community Action Committee300.00

 School Supplies for Belle Air School

12/21/24 Christmas Gifts for Shelter\$467.00

12/31/24 Balance \$940.00 - 717.00=\$173.00

Thank you, Bethany Family & Friends, for your generous support of the Board of Deacons.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Below is a summary of activity for the year of 2024 for Bethany's Buildings and Grounds Committee. Committee members are Craig Bray, Roxane Wales, and David Wales. Dave is Chair of the Committee.

The Committee manages our janitorial service, Centurion Services. To save money, we purchase janitorial supplies for the church rather than paying them a premium to do so; Dave handles supply coordination with the Centurion office.

Twice a year we ordinarily organize church-wide Work Days to spruce up the campus for Easter and Christmas. This is when many regular church members lend a hand in cleaning and maintaining the church. Please be aware that there are tasks for every skill level during our Work Day (indoors and out) and everyone is encouraged to participate!

Here are the activities the Committee is responsible for, or performed, in 2024 to maintain the church building and grounds.

- Roll out the garbage, recycling, and green cans every Tuesday. Many thanks to George Lynch and Tamra Hollenbeck for helping out with this when Dave is away.
- A landscape maintenance service has been retained. They are monthly keeping the landscaping on our campus looking professionally trimmed. Also, the two olive trees in front of the church were trimmed by an arborist.
- A large metal downspout rusted out, and former member Mitch Fontaine was gracious enough to fabricate a new downspout for Bethany. He did not ask for remuneration, however, we provided him with a gift card for Disneyland, as that is one of his family's favorite pastimes. Thanks to Craig Bray and Fred Matthews for installing it.
- Old metal shed that blew down the hill in 2023 was brought back up and hauled off to the dump in February.
- The Spring church-wide work day was conducted on March 25, 2024. The Fall workday was conducted November 16, 2024.
- Sturdy metal chains were installed across both driveways in June with reflective material added to make them visible at night. PG&E marked the spots where underground water and gas pipes were so we would not have

any problems installing the metal posts. We had issues with cars doing doughnuts in our parking lot and the neighbor across the street has expressed concern about various types of nefarious activity in our parking lot after hours. The unwelcome activity appears to have been curtailed as a result.

- New stove pilots. The stove does not have electronic starters. 5 of the pilot lights will be turned off, leaving only the ones closest to the island lit. The other pilots can be re-lit as needed.
- Old toilet seats in the women's bathroom were replaced in February. Also an easier to use paper towel dispenser was installed.
- The church is in the process of exploring the installation of a solar array for environmental and fiscal reasons. We would replace the old gas-powered boiler with a more economical and environmental heat pump system (that uses only electricity). Finding a company to provide this is proving to be difficult.
- Fred Matthew's neighbor, Osh Eliyahu, fixed various doors around Bethany that were out of alignment, or that were not properly closing and clicking shut. He did an excellent job.
- One of the urinals in the men's bathroom was leaking quite a bit of water when the handle was depressed. One of the members of the Sikh Gurdwara fixed it in September; we compensated him for his good work.
- The sump pump downstairs was not functioning properly, and overflowed slightly (and caused an excess of unpleasant odors). We have worked out with the Sikhs a process to monitor this before it happens again.
- The toilet seat in the men's bathroom cracked and was replaced in December. And a new Hook and Eye fastener (so the door could be locked for privacy) was installed to replace the old one that had failed.

The care of Bethany's building and grounds is a huge task, and thanks to the many hands of the members of this Committee and congregation for pitching in, the big task is manageable. **Many hands make light work!** AND we are always looking for new members so if you are interested in exercising your unique landscaping, carpentry, or just happy disposition skill-set to the greater glory of the Lord and Bethany please ask a committee member about joining us!

David Wales, Chair

Community Action Committee

Bethany Presbyterian's Community Action Committee works to help others in need through our actions both inside and outside of our congregation and community.

2024 Activities included a coat drive, monthly collections for CWHH, and a very large collection for CWHH during the end of November and through December. Items included food, sheets and blankets, coats and jackets, socks and underwear, towels, toiletries, and other non-perishable items.

Again, many thanks to the church members and friends of Bethany who are inspired to help others in need.

Lyn Hughes, Chair

Financial Trustees

Bethany Presbyterian Church of San Bruno was fully supported by our congregation as we successfully completed 2024 in a positive position. This success is due to the faithful giving by our congregation which allows us to continue to be a part of and active in our vibrant community.

The Trustees spent time making sure our finances were in order, working with Session and Personnel to ensure all staff positions were filled, and the staff was working to the best of their ability. Each staff member received a moderate Christmas bonus.

We have a five-year renewable lease with our tenant, the Sikh Association, who occupies the downstairs of our building. There were various mechanical issues this year as the building continues to age, but overall, we worked through the issues that came before us.

Pledges, tenant income, and strong general giving make up the income received at Bethany Church.

2024 Budget	\$235,795.16
2024 Actual Income.....	\$229,597.05
2024 Actual Expenses.....	\$222,146.83

The church continued to provide Presbytery USA support for mission giving in the amount of \$7,200, which is the same rate as in 2023.

In addition, the church continues our giving spirit to show visible concern for others in need by contributing cash or other items outside of our General Fund income to the following mission projects:

Catholic Workers Hospitality House (San Bruno Shelter: Food/Supplies (No Cash): \$0.00

Peacemaking Offering: (25% remains at Bethany Church): \$757.75

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$1,120.00

Total Cash: \$1,877.75

Bethany has reserves that are held at the Synod of the Pacific and endowments that are invested in New Covenant Mutual Funds as follows:

Synod of the Pacific accounts, etc. as of 12/31/2024: Not available at time of report

Lyn Hughes, Chair

Personnel

As the Chair of the Personnel Committee, I have provided the following services for 2024:

- Provided Pulpit Supply as needed
- Provided fill-ins as needed for Director of Music
- Dealt with various personnel issues throughout the year
- Attended Session meetings
- Held check-in meetings with personnel

George Lynch, Chair

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee worked to plan meaningful worship services throughout the year, guided by our pastor, Rev. Deb McGuire, Committee Chair Pam Matthews, Music Director Jessica Reddell Popovich, and member-at-large Tamra Hollenbeck. We met monthly after worship, and we looked ahead to the coming months to make sure we were prepared for the different seasons of the church year.

Pam and her husband Fred moved to Missoula, MT, in late May, and the Worship Committee continued the work with Deb, Jessica, and Tamra. The weekly services continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit, allowing congregants to fill up themselves in preparation to go out into the world to share God's love with all they meet.

The following are some of the special worship services held this year.

Lent

The Lenten Season began with an Ash Wednesday service at Bethany, and continued with six Sundays of Lent. The church sanctuary was open on Good Friday to allow congregants an opportunity to retreat and reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus.

Easter

Easter was celebrated with two services, the Sunrise Service at the crack of dawn, followed by a reception with hot sticky rolls and other tasty treats. The traditional Worship Service was held at 10:00 am with lots of special music and a celebratory spirit.

Pentecost

The Spirit filled the sanctuary as we bid Pam and Fred Matthews goodbye. Pentecost is a time to reflect on who God sent to help guide us through life.

Liturgist Sign-up

We instituted a new way to welcome people to be liturgist during worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone interested and willing to be the liturgist during worship. Please take a look at the list and sign up on a date that works for you. Never been the liturgist before? No worries! There is a script to follow, and there are several people who would be willing to help make it comfortable for you. The congregation is pretty welcoming, too! Please let Rev. Deb know if you would like to participate in worship this way, or just sign up! And thanks for your willingness to help!

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, September 29th, the sanctuary had some special guests in attendance with several dogs and a bunny coming forward at the end of the service for a blessing by Rev. McGuire. It was a lovely service, and all God's Critters behaved well. One guest dog, Scooby, could be heard singing along with the hymns and the choir! Thanks to everyone who brought their bunny or their dog along. We hope they enjoyed their special treats afterwards!

World Communion Sunday

World Communion was celebrated on Sunday, October 6th with the kick off of the Peace and Global Witness Offering and tasty breads from all of the continents of the world. It is always a wonderful reminder of the commonality we share with Christians around the world. The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be dedication on Sunday, October 27th, and there are envelopes on the table in the Narthex for you to use for your offering (if you can't find the one that was mailed to you!).

Reformation Sunday

Celebrated on Sunday, October 27, the theme was that we are along a continuum of believers, reaching back to Martin Luther and John Knox. Reformed and reforming. The Peace and Global Witness offering was dedicated.

All Saints' Day

On Sunday, November 3, the congregation was invited to bring pictures of their loved ones to place on the communion table at the beginning of worship. There was an opportunity to light a candle in honor of the saints in our lives. It was a time to hold dear the memories of those who have gone to be with God.

Christ the King

Sunday, November 24. This is the last Sunday of the Church Calendar Year. It is also the Sunday before Thanksgiving, so there will be some Thanksgiving songs to celebrate this season of gratitude.

Advent

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22. There was a hymn sing with Advent and Christmas carols on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1. Different groups of people lit the Advent Candle with a meditation on the Advent word for the day. The Advent words in order are: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and for Christmas Eve - Light.

Thanks to everyone for your participation in this precious time of year.

Advent Bulletin Covers

Rev. Deb invited the kids of the congregation to draw pictures for the Advent bulletin covers with wonderful results. Thanks to all the young congregants who shared their artistic talents with the rest of us!

Worship Committee now plans to meet quarterly and as needed to continue to make worship a weekly event that meets the spiritual needs of anyone who enters through our doors. We welcome any feedback about what we can do to improve your experience as we celebrate our connection through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jessica Reddell Popovitch, Tamra Hollenbeck, Deb McGuire

Ruth Covenant Group

The Bethany Presbyterian Church Ruth Covenant Group, aka The Ruthies, met monthly with a hybrid model, the majority of people meeting at the church and some continuing to join via zoom. The focus of our time together was the personal sharing of a person in our life who has been an inspiration to us. It was a wonderful time of exploring and presenting a person who had a key place in helping us become the person we are today. In addition to these presentations, there was always time for check-in, prayers, fellowship, and great snacks.

The Ruth Covenant Group is an intergenerational group of women (and sometimes a beautiful boy, Bryson!) devoted to supporting each other in all the stages of our lives. Any one is welcome to join. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday evening of the month. If you have questions about the group, please contact Tamra Hollenbeck.

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!

Tamra Hollenbeck

Special Events

Spring Tea - June 1, 2024

Bethany hosted a May Flowers Spring Tea at the church on Saturday, June 1. It was the first tea since the covid pandemic, and the mood of the day was joy and determination! The tea was a fundraiser for the RotaCare Clinic in Half Moon Bay, a free medical clinic for low income residents and farm workers, run by medical volunteers including Dr. Chris Angeles. The clinic runs entirely on donations and the volunteers who greet and treat many people who would otherwise not be able to afford care. During the presentation about the clinic, it was disclosed that Dr. Angeles is not only a volunteer doctor at the clinic. She became the Clinic Director when the facility they use for their after-hours work stated that the clinic couldn't continue without a director. The other volunteers for the clinic spoke very highly of Chris and her expertise and compassion. Pretty cool!

Many thanks to the tea committee members who provided a delightful and delicious repast for the tea participants. Jorie Abbott and Robin Villines coordinated the sandwiches and fruit; Kathy Fogle and Tamra Hollenbeck provided sweet treats, scones, and lemon curd; Judy Lozzi provided gluten free treat options; Lyn Hughes handled ticket sales and the raffle; Kathy Fogle made beautifully decorated sugar cubes; and George Lynch was our Guy Friday, helping with transportation of items, clean up after the tea, and beautiful background guitar music during the meal. So lovely! Kathy Quickert created the flyers and tickets for the event, and committee members provided baskets for the raffle.

A very special addition to the tea was from Kathleen Mitchell. Kathleen was an antique collector and dealer for most of her life, and she donated enough tea cups and tea pots for every participant to be able to keep their tea cup. The tea pots were used both for the hot water for tea and a beautiful floral centerpieces assembled by Kathy Fogle, and they were given to one person at each table. We are extremely grateful to Kathleen for her generosity and for the special donation for the tea.

The 2024 Spring Tea was a big success, and we look forward to another one in the near future! Many thanks to everyone who worked and participated to make it such a joy-filled and wonderful event!

Thanksgiving Dinner 2024

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Talent Show was held on Saturday, November 23rd, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. An ad hoc committee organized and planned the event with skill and ease, and it was a wonderful evening. Thanks to Jorie Abbott, Robin Villines, Lyn Hughes, Roxane Wales, Jan Howell, and Tamra Hollenbeck for their efforts in bringing the dinner to fruition. As in Thanksgiving dinners from previous years, the church provided turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, gravy, rolls, and drinks, and the congregation provided delicious sides including mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, salads, vegetable dishes, and wonderful desserts.

Following dinner, those assembled were entertained by the talents of several people, including vocal and instrumental musical selections, some story telling, joke recitals, and several poetry readings from Bob Johansen and his friends from the San Bruno Senior Center Poetry Group. After the talent show, everyone rallied and helped clean up the sanctuary, led by George Lynch as master dishwasher and Janine Mooney as lead dish dryer! When the work was all finished, you would never know that there had been such a fine repast the night before. Not a crumb on the floor nor a chair out of place could be found! Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun and shared some of their favorite dishes and talents with the rest of us!

Advent Festival 2024

The Advent Festival, an event to prepare the sanctuary for the Advent Season, was held on Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 am til 1:00 pm. It was a festive affair with cookie baking, hot apple cider, hanging of the stars, and Christmas tree setup and decorating. Many thanks to Craig Bray for leading the group in a new way to hang the stars; hopefully, there will be an easier time with the take down and

putting up again next year with his new pulley system. Thanks also to Jan Howell and Elaine Tennent for their cookie dough rolling and cookie baking! The sanctuary smelled pretty welcoming with the wafting odor of cookies in the oven and apple cider on the stove! Roxane Wales once again created a beautiful Advent wreath for the communion table with the Advent Candles all ready for each Sunday of Advent. It was a lovely morning of activity and fellowship. Thanks to everyone who participated in the fun.