

# News from the Cross Roads – Clipper and Sanchez

## Bethany United Methodist Church

December 2015

### A Note from the Pastor



These past Five months at Bethany have gone by quickly, and I can hardly believe we're already in the Advent Season. I've mentioned in worship that this is my absolute favorite time of year in the life of the church. The decorations in the sanctuary, the re-telling of our Christmas Story, and remembering the true meaning of the Advent Season as we approach Christmas.

This year our theme for Advent is Home, and as I've been thinking about what that means in the context of our lives, particularly for those who without permanent shelter. San Francisco has thousands of residents who call the streets their home, and I've been praying about ways Bethany might connect and reach out to that community.

One of those ways may be further involvement with the San Francisco Night ministry. A "church" in the city whose congregation is the homeless and its worship services are on the street. How can we help feed, cloth, and minister to those who are turned away and ignored by so many?

I hope our Advent theme this year and our worship services might inspire us to

collectively think about how Bethany might be Christ's hands and feet for those around us. Advent is all about the expectation and arrival of Emmanuel, God-with-us. The most beautiful thing to remember is that even now thousands of years after his birth God is still with us. God's spirit is among us and often God can best be felt and found in the most uncomfortable places.

I look forward to our Journey towards home this Advent, may we find places of discomfort so we can enact justice. May we find ways to be home for others. What a joy and a gift it is to be in ministry in this place. I look forward to learning and growing with all of you, and seeing the ways in which God is at work in our lives, in our church, and in our community.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sadie



### Advent Worship Services at Bethany - HOME

Home; 'a safe place' a refuge, a place of security and safety, in our Christmas carols we sing of being Home for Christmas and create idyllic scenes of fires, snow, and families gathered together. But what happens when home is disrupted? When everything we thought we knew, everything we believed to be true changes, what happens when home never existed, when

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one must flee home for safety and a chance of a new life?

*“The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”*  
-Maya Angelou

This Advent Season at Bethany United Methodist church we'll explore the idea of Home and what it means, through the lens of the Christmas narrative as we examine modern day concerns of homelessness, immigration and refugees. How do we make home for those without, for those seeking, and for those who are unwanted?

 **Week 1: Home Disrupted** – Find out what happens when God calls us to move beyond our place of comfort and Home, to a place of justice.

 **Week 2: The Displaced Among Us** – According to 2015 Date collected by the city there are 7,504 homeless persons in the City of San Francisco. How to we create home for those without?

 **Week 3: When there is no Room at the Inn** – Currently there are more than 4 million Syrian Refugees. Fleeing their homes, look for refuge, respite and care. How do we welcome the refugee?

 **Week 4: Los Posadas; For the Homeless, Immigrant, & Refugee** - This service is inspired by the Latin American *Las Posadas* tradition, a procession that moves from station to station; re-enacting the journey that Mary and Joseph take to find shelter on the night of Christmas Eve. At each Posada, or Inn, Mary and Joseph ask for shelter, and at each Posada they are refused, and the company moves on to the next station. The service

ends when at the last station, the Holy Family is finally recognized, and they and their friends are welcomed in with celebration. In our *Las Posadas* service we are viewing the holy family through the lens of our modern day pilgrims: the homeless, unemployed, the undocumented immigrant, and the refugee.



### Winter Shelter 2015

As part of our Christmas tradition, on December 28, 29 and 30 we will prepare and serve meals for approximately 100 homeless men through the SF Interfaith Winter Shelter program. Given this important and significant undertaking, we need many volunteers for our designated evenings. We need 4 – 6 volunteers each evening for cooking at Bethany (3 – 6pm), 2 -3 volunteers for transportation from Bethany to St. Mary's Cathedral (6 – 6:30pm) and 4 – 5 volunteers for serving/cleanup at St. Mary's Cathedral (6:30 – 8pm). Don't worry about cooking talent: we have equal need for people who excel at opening cans, chopping carrots, and scrubbing pans. We will distribute a sign-up sheet starting this Sunday, or email Shannon Horton at [shannon.horton@kkcr.com](mailto:shannon.horton@kkcr.com) or Cathy Personius at [cpersonius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpersonius@sbcglobal.net). If you are unable to help, but would like to donate money for food, it would be appreciated.

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### Background on Interfaith Shelter Program



Designed to augment existing shelter opportunities during the coldest months of the year, the Interfaith Winter Shelter provides breakfast, dinner, and a safe and warm overnight rest for up to 110 homeless men each night. Led by SFIC's Past Chair, Rita Semel, and ECS's Director of Shelters, Kathy Treggiari, the Interfaith Winter Shelter is hosted by four congregations - St. Boniface Catholic Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Mary's Cathedral, and the First Unitarian Universalist Society - and draws on the generous commitment of congregations throughout San Francisco, which lend their time, talent and financial resources to ensure the success of the effort. In addition to the meals prepared and served by volunteer congregations, the shelter provides sterilized blankets for each person, mats to sleep on, toiletries and cleaning supplies, as well as all-night, trained attendants and counseling services. Each year it is the support of so many agencies that make this possible, a true community of caring for the people of San Francisco.

### Food Bank Upcoming Work Dates



Saturday, December 12, 9am-12pm  
Thursday, January 7, 4-6pm (ages 11 & up)  
Saturday, February 6, 9-12pm (ages 8 & up)

### Holden Evening Prayer Service

Tuesdays During Advent, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>



Holden Village is a Lutheran Ecumenical retreat center nestled in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Our Evening prayer service comes out of Holden Village. This service allows a contemplative sung worship experience. Sung prayer, short readings, silence. For 30 minutes on Tuesday nights join us for a centering service during the busy season.

### Going Deeper Advent Bible Study at Bethany

Nov. 23rd, Dec. 7th, Dec. 21st,



During the season of Advent we'll gather at the church at 7pm and study the figures and texts of the season using the Book *When God Comes Down* by James A. Harnish. All are welcome to attend.

### Day Time Bible Study Coming in 2016

To better meet the needs of our diverse congregation in addition to our Monday Evening Bible study Pastor Sadie will now offer a daytime Bible study **twice a month** on **Thursdays at 1:30pm**.

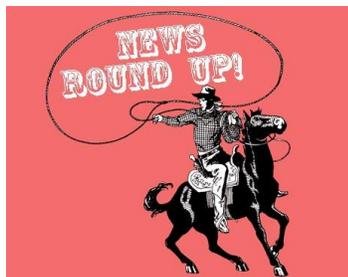
### Bethany Reads Book Club

Due to the busyness of the season, there will be no December book club. We'll resume in January with a discussion of *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Webber. Date and Time TBA.

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## NOVEMBER ROUND UP

### Black Lives Matter All Saints Day Service

We lifted up the names of the black unarmed men and women killed by police in 2015 as well as the names of those killed in their church in Charleston. 73 candles, one for each life lost.



Thanks to all who participated in the Work Clean Up Day Nov. 7th and for John Nelson trustee chair for organizing.



On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Bethany hosted a vigil, to remember the victims and survivors of Typhoon Haiyan. The event was organized



by 3KP Northern California and co-sponsored by the Cal-Neve Philippine Solidarity Task Force. During the vigil we were updated on the current environmental and human rights situation in the Philippines, and given a call towards action in solidarity with the people of the Philippines.

On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> we welcomed a new member Nicholas Grainger into the congregation with a laying on of hands. Welcome to Bethany!!



**Holiday Fair** Thank you Gloria Soliz for your work organizing the Bethany Holiday Fair & Thank you to everyone who



volunteered, donated, & participated. It was truly a congregational effort! Over \$500 was raised for Bethany which will go towards our Tithe and Missional goals of the church.



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### Stewardship 2015

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their 2016 Pledge Cards. If you haven't yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you didn't receive one please contact Pastor Sadie. Your support is necessary as we dream about our ministry in 2016!



### Volunteers Needed

Christmas Crafts with the kids and Families of Moldovan Academy. Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm. Bethany shares it's church building with Moldovan Academy which serves 33 kids and their families from the Noe Valley Community. On the 18<sup>th</sup> the church will sponsor an afternoon of Christmas crafts and cookie decorating as a way of getting to know the families. If you're able to help please let Pastor Sadie know!



### Caroling at Bethany Center

Wear your festive sweaters and bring your voice for caroling on **Sunday Dec. 20th @ 3pm.**

### Interfaith Memorial for Our Homeless Dead

Each year lives are lost on the streets of San Francisco. An interfaith vigil is held in their honor and memory each year. Join the Interfaith Council remembering those lives on **Monday December 21<sup>st</sup>** from 5:30-6:30pm on the Steps of City Hall on the Polk Street Side. We are invited to bring candles to light in their memory.

### Bethany Collection



As part of our advent theme of Home, Bethany will be collecting items that will provide more comfort to those who live on the cold SF streets. Please bring in new men's white socks, new or good condition jackets so that we might offer some warmth to those without.



### Bethany Holiday Fair 2015

Local artists, crafters, and small businesses were featured at Bethany's second Noe Valley Holiday Fair on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. After Thanksgiving worship on Sunday, November 22, the space was transformed by many hands and music into a community market. Fellowship continued with lunch around the tables in the patio. The event was open to the public for 3 hours between 1 and 4 p.m.



Monica Lee, Resident Artist at Bethany Senior Center, featured handmade crafts made of repurposed materials. Nancy Lovell Ortega of Cashmere & Buttons reclaims cashmere sweaters to make neck warmers and gloves that are decorated with vintage buttons. Lily's Cards, Jewelry by Bascia Lassus and the women's quilt group at Temple United Methodist Church also had tables.

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In addition to our outside vendors, Bethany raised \$500.00 for our wider United Methodist tithe in several different ways. A barbecue lunch was available for a reasonable fee with donations

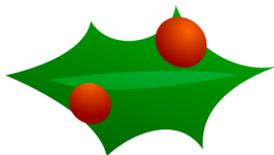
and coordination from the Friant-Nelson family. Shannon Horton and others contributed a variety of delicious side dishes. We are also grateful for all of those in our congregation who gave to and hosted the book swap and the bake sale. Gift certificates for the raffle were donated by local businesses: Martha Brothers Coffee on Church Street, Olive This Olive That off 24th Street, and Lisa's Mexican restaurant in Daly City. Kay Nemeth donated a one of a kind, handmade natural fiber doll.



Further proceeds of \$100.00 were raised through vendor table fees and handmade card sales that will support our worship center and community events.

Thanks to all who participated and contributed to another successful Holiday Fair again this year!

Gloria Soliz  
Covenant Council Co-Chair  
Holiday Fair Coordinator



### Bethany UMC Trustees

Thanks to all that showed up for the church workday that was held on November 7th. Not only did we wash windows, clean the floors and walls, bathrooms, courtyards and

many other places, we had great fellowship in conversation and of course, food and drink. Our next workday will be

sometime in March 2016 so stayed tuned for the upcoming date. Our 2 newest tenants moved into their offices on December 1st on the second floor, Bob Gordon of the California LGBT Tobacco, Education Partnership and Brian Whitlow of the San Francisco Community Agencies Responding to Disaster (SF CARD). If you visit the church



office anytime soon, be sure to welcome and say hi to Bob and Brian. We continue to work on our



exterior sign package and hope to have something in production in the coming weeks, a slow process but stay tuned for further updates.

John Nelson, Chair

### December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following members!

**4: Geoff Gould**

**6: Dona Malan**

**25: David Ferguson**

**26: Steve Kroner**