

News from the Cross Roads – Clipper and Sanchez Bethany United Methodist Church

November 2015

A Note from the Pastor



During the last two weeks of October and the first two weeks of November, my sermon series focused attention on Privilege and Race in the United States, particularly in the context of the modern conversations that are playing out nationally in the Black Lives Matter Movement. While I hope the worship services have been fruitful, I recognize that what I to offer to the conversation is small, and there are a wealth of voices that offer a fuller perspective than I could ever hope.

If you're interested in reading more, here are a sampling of books that I've used to help educate myself. Some of these are older and speak to the historical context, and others speak to more recent events. Some are memoirs, some theological, others biographies. I hope you might find something useful as we continue to thoughtfully engage in the conversation and work of racial justice in the United State.

- * The Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X & Alex Haley
- *Citizen An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine
- * Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies & the Justice of God by Kelly Brown Douglas
- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone

- * Ferguson & Faith: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community by Leah Gunning Francis
- *Disrupting White Supremacy From Within: White People on What We Need to Do By Jennifer Harvey, Karin A. Case & Robin Hawley
- *Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving
- * Pauli Murray: The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest & Poet
- * Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology by Pamela R. Lightsey
- * My People is the Enemy by William Stringfellow
- * Between the World & Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

My list could go on, but I'll leave you with these. Also, as an avid reader and lover of books please share which books have spoken to you.

Happy Reading!
Pastor Sadie

Holiday Fair

Sunday, November 22

Please join us for Bethany's second annual Holiday Fair! the fair will include works from Bethany Center Resident Artist Monica Lee,



1 *Figure 1: "8-pointed Star by Temple UMC Quilters*

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hand-made greeting cards from our own Gloria Solis, and a beautiful quilt by Temple UMC (see below) which will be raffled at the event. The raffle tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The focus will be on re-purposed specialties, and a festive barbecue will round out the event. Start your gift shopping here, and help Bethany prepare for the holidays!

Bethany UMC Trustees

The Board of Trustees was busy with a number of building related items over the past month. First, we rented two of our vacant offices in the administrative wing. Gloria Soliz was instrumental in bringing forth two non-profits that ended up being a very good match with us. Beginning December 1st Bob Gordon of the California LGBT Tobacco, Education Partnership and Brian Whitlock of the San Francisco Community Agencies Responding to Disaster (SF CARD) will move into their new offices at Bethany UMC.



As of now, all of our vacant offices have been rented which significantly helps with our finances of maintaining the building. We also interviewed a janitorial firm and continue to interview companies with the hopes of bringing a firm on board by the end of year. We continue to work towards

installing exterior signage which has taken some time to pull together due to financial constraints but have faith we will have signage hopefully soon. On November 6th and 7th our windows will all be washed and if you have not noticed, they desperately need to be cleaned. Be sure to come to our church workday on

November 7th from 9 am – 12 noon. There will be refreshments and snacks and it is and it is a great time not only to spruce up our building but also to be in fellowship with one another.

John Nelson, Chair

Upcoming Work Dates for the Food Bank

Saturday, November 14, 9:00 -12:00

Saturday, December 12, 9:00 -12:00



Figure 2: Winter Shelter Walk 2015. Bethany raised \$1,215 for the Shelter!

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Food Bank Donations on the First Sunday of Every Month

At Bethany UMC we take communion on the first Sunday of every month. An open table, that is set and prepared for us by God. A table where we are offered the mystery of God's grace and love, unconditionally.

Sara Miles in her Spiritual Memoir *Take this Bread*, talks about her conversion experience through the act of communion. As she took the bread and the cup, she was left with the question, "Now that you've taken the bread what are you going to do?"

On the first Sunday of the month as part of our spiritual practice at Bethany, you're encouraged and invited to bring food to


SF-MARIN
FOOD BANK

donate to the food bank. Part of our, "Now that we've taken the bread, what are we going to do?" Just as the table was prepared for us, so too might we help prepare the table for others, and offer food so that all may eat.

Set a reminder on your phone, collect food throughout the month and offer your gift of food on the first Sunday of each month. The most needed foods are tuna and canned meats, low sugar cereals, peanut butter, whole grain rice, pasta and oats, low sodium soups and stews, 100% fruit juice, and canned fruits and vegetables.

Going Deeper Bible Study at Bethany with Pastor Sadie

We meet twice a month to reflect more deeply on our scriptures and how we find meaning in these ancient texts in our modern world. Bible Study meets from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. upstairs in the church office on the second and fourth Monday evenings. Join us on November 9th & 23rd. All are welcome.

New Tenants at Bethany

Recently Bethany reached rental agreements with 2 local non-profit organizations.

The first organization is the LGBT Tobacco Education Partnership, whose mission statement is:

To counteract, through education and advocacy efforts, the negative impact tobacco use has had on the

Lesbian,

Gay,

Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.



The group works with California's elected officials to resist tobacco industry donations, and work to reduce availability of tobacco products in pharmacies. The project director is Bob Gordon.

The second organization is SF CARD, whose mission statement is:

To ensure that nonprofit and faith-based organizations serving San Francisco's vulnerable populations are prepared a disaster; to play a central



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role in the coordination of these organizations in their disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

The idea for SF CARD was formed after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. The importance of local nonprofit and faith-based organizations immediate response and leadership in the recovery phase of the disaster made their importance evident to local response agencies. The executive director is Brian Whitlow.

Bell Appeal presents a Christmas Concert

Bell Appeal will be performing a Christmas music concert at Bethany on Sunday, December 13th. In addition to holiday classics, we'll be putting our special touches on contemporary Christmas tunes of all varieties. We hope you can join us for this festive and fun occasion! The concert is free, but donations are welcome.



Bell Appeal, founded in 1997, is a San Francisco-based community handbell ensemble sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church. We've made it our mission to perform a wide range of music, and to have a great time while we're at it. Our previous concerts have featured a handbell spin on jazz, classic rock, musical theater, and current pop music.

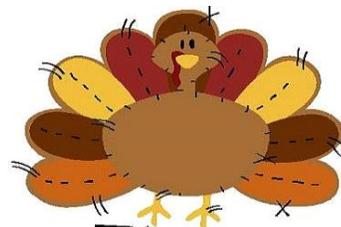
Bell Appeal has performed at many events around the Bay Area, including at weddings and holiday parties. Lately, Bell Appeal has been a featured performer at handbell conferences, including the Area XII "Shake, Rattle and Roll" conference in 2014 and the Pinnacle national conference in 2015.

We are now recruiting new members for 2016! If you can read music (either clef) and are willing to spend your Thursday nights with us, we'll teach you all you need to know. We rehearse in San Francisco's Upper Haight neighborhood.



November

4: Marilyn Herand
18: John Nelson



Happy Thanksgiving

Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service

Join the San Francisco Interfaith community for a Thanksgiving service at the Baha'i Community space at 170 Valencia Street. The service begins at 10 am on Thanksgiving morning (November 26th) and is sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council. All are welcome!

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New Administrative Assistant

In October we welcomed Ann Dayton as our new administrative assistant. Ann comes to us



with 10 years of church administration experience. She was previously on staff at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cathedral Hill. She is

an active member of the Stonestown Family YMCA, volunteers at the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, is an avid reader, and a dog lover. She is pictured with her rescue dog "George" who she describes as a "chuggle" (chihuahua, pug, beagle mix.) She is happy to become part of the Bethany family. She will generally be in the church office 3 afternoons a week.

Report from Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Earlier this year, SPRC reached out to the congregation to help us complete a Church Profile. We want to thank everyone who responded, because it was helpful to us in the process of appointment of our new pastor. As Bethany moves forward, we want to share narrative parts of the Profile, which may be of interest to the congregation.

Of our 73 members, over 25 responded to the survey. Of those, 2% were under 20 years of age, 13% between 20 and 40 years, 20% between 40 and 60 years, and 65% over 60 years of age. Most thought that our local church membership as similar in ethnicity to

the wider community, but actually not representative of Noe Valley, in that parents in their 30s and 40s now predominate in the neighborhood. The major trends that people foresee in our community are the lack of affordable housing, the middle class being pushed out, a rising teenage population and traffic/parking congestion.

From that, most respondents thought that the issues our church should address are: wealth inequality, homelessness and opportunities for volunteering in community service. Other trends within our church were both the aging of our church membership and a desire to be a strong presence through outreach and participation in community events. Flowing from that, more specific goals were: increasing church membership; building a youth program; improving our web presence and other means of communication; and fostering leadership and discipleship among the congregation. Given our current resources and deficit budget, implementing these goals is a challenge.

The survey concluded with reflections on the 5 most important strengths in pastoral leadership needed by the church. They were: being open and welcoming to all, especially our historic support of the LGBTQ community; being a strong spiritual leader, with the ability to give great sermons and try innovative ideas in worship; working collaboratively with church members; inspiring youth and all church members;



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having a down-to-earth sense of humor.

The compilation of these responses was a big task. I want to thank Lisa Pittman for volunteering to take that on and doing such a good job. SPRC hopes this gives you some idea of how a good number of Bethany members view our church community and their ideas for future trends. How we move forward as a community is, of course, an ongoing process for all of us and SPRC hopes that this brief summary can be a touchstone for further discussions and programs.

Donna Calame, Chair, SPRC